Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Comprehensive Master Plan

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Oak Island Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 1

Introduction, Purpose and Mission

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

1.0 Introduction

The town's Parks and Recreation Department operates parks and recreation facilities that provide leisure activities for more than 8,500 residents and 40,000 vacationers. The Town of Oak Island recognizes that a comprehensive recreation master plan will provide direction for the orderly and consistent planning, development, and administration of the town's Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a comprehensive planning document that recognizes the existing conditions of facilities as well as the current recreational and wellness needs and desires of town residents. It also identifies information based on trends and demographic estimates to forecast growth within the town and the future needs of its residents and vacationers.

1.1 Purpose of the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

The master plan is intended to be the development tool staff and the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will use when making recommendations to the Town Council for future facility improvements and for delivering parks and recreation services over the next ten years. Town officials, staff, and the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will use the master plan to help develop and set policies and standards that will continue to enhance the community's quality of life.

The project planning team and town staff took a collaborative approach to the development of the master plan. Staff provided insight and extensive current and historical data for use by the planning team including a current facility inventory, current program inventory, organizational history, trends, identification of core programs and services, identification of current issues requiring resolution, and current and projected breakdowns of community demographics. These items provided a solid basis for the planning process. The team utilized a number of public outreach tools to evaluate and determine the elements in need of updating and other recreation issues that needed to be addressed, as well as to develop the priorities for programs and services to recommend to the town council in the master plan. A parks and facilities needs assessment was conducted including multiple approaches to solicit maximum input from the community. The team analyzed the collected data and considered the existing information to determine the best approach to meet the current and future needs of the town residents and vacationers.

1.2 Previous Community Studies and Assessments

Capital Improvement Plan (2009-2010)

Recreation Complex Feasibility Study (2007)

Land Use Plan (2009)

1.3 Report Organization

The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is organized in ten chapters.

Chapter 1 – Introduction, Purpose and Mission: presents an overview of the purpose for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and describes the process used to complete the project.

Chapter 2 – Master Plan Goals

Chapter 3 - Characteristics and Demographics: describes Oak Island and the regions surrounding its location. This section also details the demographics and planning issues that affect Oak Island and its ability to deliver successful park and recreation services.

Chapter 4 – Existing Parks, Facilities, and Operations: contains a current inventory of existing parks and facilities in Oak Island. The Park and Facilities Inventory details the amenities contained at facilities and provides comments on existing conditions. It also contains information on staffing and services.

Chapter 5– Needs Assessment /Community Input: contains the Needs Assessment and Demand Analysis; which was generated from the various community outreach tools and public input processes used for the master plan.

Chapter 6- Trends – provides general information on future park and recreation trends

Chapter 7 – Peer Communities- comparison of similar Parks and Recreation Departments specifically staffing, facilities, programs, budgets and population

Chapter 8 – Allied providers – identifies area providers that offer similar facilities and services

Chapter 9 – Recommendations

Chapter 10 – Appendices – contains survey, job descriptions, budget, park/facility list

1.4 Mission of the Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural, and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 2
Goals

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

2.0 Master Plan Goals and Objectives

The project planning team developed several goals to direct the master plan process. It was agreed that the master plan needed to contain certain necessary information in order to be a useful and effective document for the Parks and Recreation Department. The goals and objectives are as follows:

- Describe current and future demographic projections
- Examine and analyze current programs, policies, and fees
- Examine the current conditions of parks, trails, and facilities
- Study and analyze current public demand and needs for parks, recreational facilities, and programs
- Study current trends in the recreation field, and make recommendations in accordance
- Study similar parks and recreation departments and evaluate comparisons
- Recognize area providers that offer similar programs, services, and facilities
- Recommend improvements to existing parks, facilities, trails, and opportunities for joint use, and future acquisition
- Examine current technology, and make recommendations for upgrades, and improvements
- Note funding and financial strategies, and actions to enable the town to implement the recommendations

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 3
Characteristics and Demographics

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

3.0 Town of Oak Island Characteristics and Demographics

3.1 Oak Island History

Early development of Oak Island as a community unofficially began in 1826 with the construction of Fort Caswell. The fort was the first area of Oak Island to have a permanent population.

Until 1939, Oak Island was still undeveloped, and was frequented mostly by foxhunters. The island was known to be a great place for fox hunting, and the hunts would remain an important part of the Island's early years. In 1936, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) was completed. This made Oak Island a true island as the ICW construction deepened portions of the Elizabeth River, severing it from the mainland.

Ernest Felder Middleton, a timber exporter from Charleston, SC, bought land on Oak Island in 1938. Middleton, along with his partners in Carolina Lands, Inc. began development of the area on Oak Island known as Long Beach. By 1939, Long Beach was officially open to the public. At this time the town had a pavilion, a canteen with a dining room, and 20 bathhouses. Early visitors enjoyed orchestras and dances at the pavilion every Saturday night. During this time, Carolina Lands also finished construction on some roads, and offered the first oceanfront lots for sale. By 1940, Long Beach had about 40 cottages. These early years saw a short building boom on the island, but during World War Two, construction came to a halt as building materials were scarce and activity was hampered by dim-out restrictions. By 1944, construction had returned to normal.

Brunswick County is one of the oldest counties in North Carolina. It was charted in 1746 and named for the Prince of Brunswick. It is the fifth largest county in area in North Carolina, reaching from the Brunswick River (bordering with New Hanover County) to the South Carolina state line. Brunswick County has 19 towns, and about 99,440 residents.

Brunswick County is uniquely situated along one of the scalloped arcs on the southeast coast of North Carolina, so the beaches, including Oak Island, face south instead of east.

3.2 Population Characteristics

The population of Oak Island includes several categories of residents, including full time residents, non-residents (absentee owners), part-time residents, property owners, seasonal visitors, day visitors, and business owners.

Permanent population data follows, referring to persons who usually reside in the study area. The seasonal population includes persons who temporarily reside in the planning area, such as tourists and vacationers, but who normally reside in another location. The peak population would be the permanent population plus the seasonal population.

The predominant growth-related conditions have been the rapid growth of both residential and commercial uses in Brunswick County and spillover growth from adjacent counties. Rapid growth has affected land use, multi-family development, and water quality and other environmental concerns for the Town of Oak Island. The historic population growth for Oak Island is summarized in the following table.

Table 1: Population Growth in Oak Island and Brunswick County

Year	Long Beach	Yaupon Beach	Oak Island	Percent of Growth Oak Island	Brunswick County	Percent Growth Brunswick County	Percent of County Population
1980	1,844	569	2,413		35,777		6.7 %
1990	3,816	764	4,580	89.8 %	50,985	42.5 %	9 %
2000			6,571	43.4 %	73,141	43.5 %	9 %
2007			8,261	25.7%	99,440	36 %	8.3 %

Data was derived from the US Census Bureau, N.C. Office of State Budget and Management, and the N.C. State Planning Office.

The N.C. Office of State Budget and Management 2007 estimate for Oak Island's permanent population is 8,261 and represents a growth rate of 240 percent between 1980 and 2007. Oak Island has the second largest population of the 19 municipalities in Brunswick County. From 1990 to 2000 Oak Island grew at a rate of 30 percent, while Brunswick County grew by 42.5 percent. Most of this growth within the county has been occurring at the beaches and mainland areas adjacent to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (ICW).

Over the past two census decades, between 1980 and 2000, Oak Island grew by 172 percent, while Brunswick County grew at a rate of 104 percent. Brunswick County experienced a tremendous building boom in the early 2000s.

Compared with other barrier island communities in Brunswick County, Oak Island has a moderate growth rate, along with Holden Beach, which grew at rate of 30 percent. The growth rates for barrier island communities in Brunswick County range from over 494 percent in Sunset Beach to a low of negative 15 percent for Ocean Isle. Ocean Isle has lost permanent population during this period. Some of the factors that contributed to these declines were conversions of multi-family structures to duplexes and single-family homes, conversion of single-family homes to seasonal renters, and redevelopment of small single-family homes to larger homes used for seasonal purposes. The peak seasonal population is the permanent residents plus rental/second home visitors. The estimates of the seasonal population in 2000 are approximately 27,598.

3.3 Economic Characteristics

The 1990 Census reported 2,051 employed persons on Oak Island in 1990 and 3,038 employed persons in 2000. Management and professional occupations employ nearly 30 percent of the residents. Sales, retail and office follow closely with 28.9 percent of the labor force. Construction employs nearly 18 percent.

Poverty statistics from the 2000 Census indicate that 4.8 percent of families in Oak Island were living below the poverty level, comprising 8.0 percent of the total individuals. Private wage and salary workers comprise 73 percent of the work force, government workers make up about 16 percent, and self-employed workers comprise about 11 percent of the work force.

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 4

Existing Parks, Facilities, Operations

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

4.0 Existing Parks, Facilities, and Operations

4.1 Existing Conditions: Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Services

This section of the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan provides an overview of the park system and an analysis of the condition of the facilities. It also contains a program/services inventory and record of participation. This chapter includes:

- Facility forms detailing all parks and recreational facilities
- A park classification system
- The existing park and facility inventory
- Services inventory and participation numbers

4.2 Organization of the Parks & Recreation Department

The Town of Oak Island provides services through the Parks and Recreation Department, which is responsible for recreation programming and facility supervision. The Department is comprised of several divisions all with the same mission of providing the highest quality recreation, leisure, and health and wellness opportunities. The Community Resource Center is a division that provides pre and after-school care, referrals and assistance to those with needs, special services for seniors including transportation to doctors' appointments, and weekly social outings. The athletics division coordinates a variety of leagues, lessons, tournaments, and outdoor opportunities for all ages. The youth and teen division coordinates activities, programs, and a wide array of special activities for youth and teens. The department also coordinates trips, special activities, and other programs for seniors. Much attention is given to health and wellness as is evident by the many fitness classes and the well utilized weight and fitness rooms. The department is also responsible for the operation of several special facilities, including the Recreation Center, Skate Park, Ocean Education Center, Nature Center, and Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course at South Harbour.

4.3 Inventory of Parks and Facilities

The parks and facilities are divided into three categories and a complete information sheet is included that details classification, acres, status, facilities/amenities within the park/facility, observations, and recommendations. Parks/Facilities are classified as one of the following: Public Service facility which serves a variety of community needs, Special Use facility which serves a specific recreational interest, and General Use facility which offers passive outdoor recreational pursuits.

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department and the Town of Oak Island maintain a broad range of recreational facilities and parks. These recreational opportunities range from a recreation center, water accesses, par 3 golf course, fishing pier, environmental water crossovers, education centers, Skate Park, athletic fields, and more. The vast majority of these facilities are more than ten years old. Although maintenance has done a commendable job, many parks and facilities are in need of upgrades, renovations and increased maintenance. It is imperative that all

facilities be on a routine maintenance schedule and that plans be put in place to budget and plan for upgrades, renovations, and replacement of dated equipment.

The parks and facilities were evaluated to assess the general condition of the parks, grounds, equipment, amenities, and furnishings. The observations take into account the general attractiveness, usability, accessibility, maintenance, up-to-date standards, shelter and shade provided, and whether the facility is meeting the community needs. The evaluations are not a substitute for a thorough infrastructure or architectural assessment nor are these observations intended to take the place of a formal ADA assessment.

4.3.1. Public Service Facilities

Facilities/Parks that serve a variety of community needs include:

- Cabana – 46th and Beach Drive
- Blue Water Point Marina boat ramps – 57th Place NW
- Tidal Waves Park – 31st SE at Davis Canal
- Oak Island Pier – 705 Ocean Drive
- Crab Dock – 72nd and Yacht Drive
- Beach Access sites
- 55th Street boat ramp – 55th NE and Yacht
- Scenic Walkway – 19th SE at Davis Canal
- 9th Street Crossover – 9th SE at Davis Canal
- 30th Place West canoe dock – 30th Place West and Pelican
- Intracoastal Waterway access sites
- Canoe Trail System
- Community Resource Center – 4700 East Oak Island Drive, Suite C
- Oak Island Recreation Center – 3003 East Oak Island Drive
- 6th Street Overlook – 6th SW at Davis Canal
- Bike/Walking Trails
- Teen Center – 48th SE at Middleton Park

CABANA

Classification:	Public service facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Restroom facilities • Handicap accessible boardwalk • Viewing platform • Outdoor shower • parking
Conditions:	The facility is in fair condition. Efforts have been and continue to be made to keep facility in the best shape possible.
Observations/ Comments:	The Cabana receives a tremendous amount of use, especially in the summer months. The facility is used for Sunday services throughout the summer and is often reserved for weddings. The cabana is the only "regional" access and provides ample parking, restrooms, and outside shower.
Recommendations:	• Additional restroom facilities • Handicap accessible • Expand facility • Landscaping • Routine maintenance

BLUE WATER POINT MARINA BOAT RAMPS

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 2 boat ramps • Parking • Port-a-john
Conditions:	Condition of ramps are good.
Observations/ Comments:	This is one of only two boat launches on the island and receives a tremendous amount of use. Parking areas serve the marina, restaurant and the public boat launch. It is commonplace to see the lot overflowing with boat trailers on any given day, especially during the summer months.
Recommendations:	• More boat launches • Partner with marina to improve parking • Partner with marina to upgrade ramps

TIDAL WAVES PARK

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Floating dock • Gazebo • Kayak storage shed
Conditions:	The floating dock is in fair condition. It has received recent repairs and is a useable dock. The gazebo is old and repairs are needed.
Observations/ Comments:	Tidal Waves Park is a great location to launch canoes and kayaks, fish, crab and bait cast. It is the location most favorable to launch from when patrons rent boats from the Recreation Center. The dock is the starting point for the annual kayak race coordinated by the department.
Recommendations:	• Repairs and improvements to the dock • Repairs and improvements to the gazebo • Expanded dock

OAK ISLAND PIER

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	Developed (contracted)
Existing Facilities:	• Quarter mile long Fishing Pier • Tackle shop • Restrooms • Parking
Conditions:	The Pier is in good condition. Repairs have been made that were a result of the Pier being out of operation for months.
Observations/ Comments:	The Pier is a popular attraction for tourist and locals who enjoy the challenge of fishing, a walk out over the water, or just observing. The Pier was purchased with the assistance of PARTF funds and like the golf course is a unique commodity for a town to operate. The department coordinates a number of fishing programs, lessons, and tournaments. The seniors and after-school participants enjoy a weekly trip to fish in the spring and fall.
Recommendations:	• Improved restroom facilities • Improved parking • Upgraded Tackle shop

CRAB DOCK (78th Street)

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Elevated platform • Bike rack • Picnic table
Conditions:	The platform is in good shape.
Observations/ Comments:	The area around the park is in need of maintenance. There is erosion from the street end to the platform. Ground cover at park is minimum and the picnic table needs to be replaced with handicap table and park made accessible.
Recommendations:	• Handicap picnic table • Routine maintenance to grounds • Routine inspection of platform • Make park handicap accessible • Look at adding a floating dock if feasible

BEACH ACCESS SITES

Classification:	Public Service Facilities
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Parking • 66 Ocean access sites • 2 handicap accesses
Conditions:	The Town provides sixty six public accesses to the beach with several being designated for OI Residents. Accesses are well maintained and in good shape.
Observations/ Comments:	The sixty six public access sites are well utilized by visitors and locals alike. Oak Island does a commendable job of providing beach access and is one of the few beach communities that does offer numerous, free access sites along the fourteen miles of beach. Each access has trash receptacles (on beach and in parking lot), bike racks, and doggie bags.
Recommendations:	• Recycling • Handicap access

55th BOAT RAMP

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 2 concrete ramps • Floating dock • Parking (trailers)
Conditions:	Ramps are in need of repair— severe drop-off at the end of the west side ramp
Observations/ Comments:	This boat launch area receives a tremendous amount of use. To date there are only two boat ramps located on the island and the parking lots are full nearly 100% of the summer months.
Recommendations:	• Repair ramps • Need for additional ramps

SCENIC WALKWAY (19TH STREET SE)

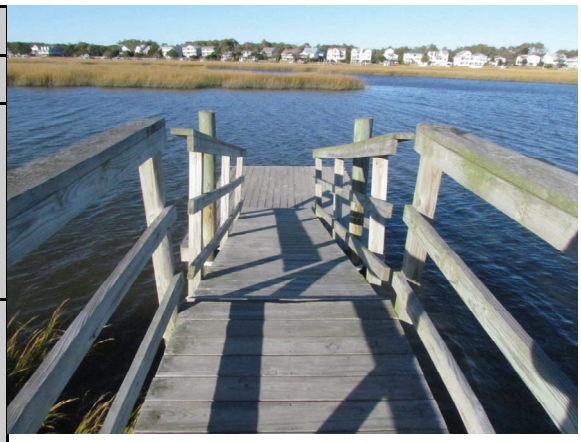
Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Bridge over Davis Canal • Gazebo • Floating dock
Conditions:	The crossover is in good condition, the dock is fairly new and in excellent condition.
Observations/ Comments:	The Scenic Walkway is one of the first crossovers to the beachfront. It is a popular and well utilized bridge over the Davis Canal. The addition of a floating dock provides access to the canal for canoes and kayaks, as well as fishing, crabbing and bait casting. The location is also ideal for observing nature.
Recommendations:	• Security Lighting • Repairs to Gazebo • Recycling • Fishing line Recycling container

9th STREET CROSSOVER

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Bridge over Davis Canal • Floating dock
Conditions:	The dock and bridge are in excellent condition.
Observations/ Comments:	This crossover is well utilized as a means to reach the beachfront and the dock provides access to Davis Canal for canoes and kayaks, and folks wishing to fish, crab, and bait cast.
Recommendations:	• Continue to maintain at high level

30th PLACE WEST CANOE DOCK

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Boardwalk • Floating dock
Conditions:	This facility is in good condition. As with all facilities routine inspection and maintenance is essential.
Observations/ Comments:	30th Place West floating dock is located on Montgomery Slough. At mid to high tide it is an ideal location to launch canoes and kayaks, fish, bait cast and crab. When the tide is low the dock is sitting in mud.
Recommendations:	• Routine inspection and maintenance



WATERWAY ACCESS SITES

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 46 accesses on Intracoastal Waterway • 18 with steps • Parking • 14 access sites on the Davis Canal • 4 cross overs • 1 handicap deck
Conditions:	Regular maintenance and repairs to accesses keep all in good condition.
Observations/ Comments:	As is the case with the beach access location, Public Works built and maintains these accesses. The Town again does a great job of providing access to the waterway. Most accesses are suitable for fishing, crabbing, bait casting, or just enjoying some time on the beach at low tide. Most accesses have trash receptacles and parking. One concern is the homeowners use of the street ends as parking for extra vehicles, boats, trampolines, etc.
Recommendations:	• Regular inspection of stairs and bulkheads • Enforce the street ends as public access

CANOE TRAIL SYSTEM

Classification:	Public Service
Acres:	24 miles
Status:	designated
Existing Facilities:	• Trail markers
Conditions:	The canoe trail needs to be remarked. Some trail markers are missing.
Observations/ Comments:	Kayaking and canoeing continue to increase in popularity and the Town has a great opportunity to capitalize on this trend and market the area as a must for paddlers. The Department held the first kayak fishing tournament in the state in October 2010. The tournament was a huge success and brought participants from all over the state and SC and Virginia as well. This program will be an annual event and the participation is expected to double for the 2011 event. The department offers kayak trips and tours, boat rentals and also hosts two kayak races.
Recommendations:	• Identify and mark trails • Market Oak Island as a destination for paddlers

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Acres:	1700 sq. feet
Status:	Belongs to Dosher Hospital
Existing Facilities:	• 4 rooms of various sizes • restrooms • Office
Conditions:	The CRC is in good condition. The building is made available to the recreation department through an exchange agreement with Dosher Hospital. The facility is cleaned and maintained by staff and kept in the best possible condition.
Observations/ Comments:	The CRC provides services to families and individuals with varying needs. It is a one stop referral and resource center that provides direction for those seeking assistance. It helps to connect those in need with the resources available throughout the county. The center also coordinates a five day/week pre and after school program, and a youth summer enrichment program. The CRC also offers weekly outings to homebound seniors, as well as transportation to Doctor appointments, grocery shopping and prescription pick up. Several trips are planned throughout the year including a yearly overnight trip to Myrtle Beach.
Recommendations:	• Future need to expand the facility

OAK ISLAND RECREATION CENTER

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Acres:	9760 sq. ft
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• (3) multi purpose rooms of various sizes • 1000 sq. ft Weight room • 1000 sq. ft Cardio room • Game room • (3) offices • Restrooms, showers, lockers • Kitchen • (3) storage rooms • Outdoor basketball court • Swings • Outdoor shuffleboard court
Conditions:	The center is in fair condition. Every effort is made to keep the building in the best possible condition. The building is over 25 years old and has many upgrades and repairs due to age, use and increased demand.
Observations/ Comments:	The recreation center is a well utilized facility with daily attendance for the fitness rooms alone often exceeding 100 patrons. It is not unusual for all rooms to be in use throughout any given day. Clubs utilize the rooms for weekly meetings, a five day a week senior lunch program occupies the kitchen and SO room, fitness classes, various events, programs and activities are scheduled throughout the fourteen and a half hour day, Monday through Friday, and the eight hours on Saturday. The facility is also rented for wedding receptions, parties and other gatherings. Center staff does an outstanding job of cleaning and preparing for all scheduled events. The programming staff schedules a wide variety of activities and programs for all interests.
Recommendations:	• Enlarge facility—current demands exceed capacity • Upgrades/repairs to ensure energy efficiency • Upgrades/repairs to current lighting (include security lighting) • Routine maintenance of grounds • Handicap accessibility • Appropriate office space • Appropriate storage space • Commercial grade kitchen

6th STREET OVERLOOK

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 150 sq. ft. fishing tee/platform • 64 foot boardwalk • parking
Conditions:	This is a new facility and is in excellent condition.
Observations/ Comments:	Boardwalk and deck provide access to canal for fishing, sightseeing and nature watching. There is ample parking including handicap parking and the deck is handicap accessible.
Recommendations:	• Signage on Oak Island Drive • Recycling • Fishing line recycling container • Look at the possibility of acquiring land to the west of the park—small boat launch on private property.

BIKING/WALKING TRAILS

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Status:	In progress, paving and marking Connect to county wide trail Reference OI Bicycle Plan
Existing Facilities:	• Bike lane from West end of Beach Road to 58th Street • Bike and walking trails listed in appendix
Conditions:	The trails are sidewalks and shoulders of roads. Often covered in sand and dirt.
Observations/ Comments:	Oak Island is a great place to ride and walk. There are countless sightseeing opportunities that can not be appreciated in a vehicle. Trails need to be marked and maintained. Correct distances need to be determined. Consideration for bike and walking paths along new bridge and bridge corridor.
Recommendations:	• Mark trails • Obtain correct distances • Biking and walking trails along new bridge corridor and new bridge • Work with area cycling groups on establishment of appropriate trails

TEEN CENTER

Classification:	Public Service Facility
Size:	3600 sq. ft
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 3000 sq ft. multi purpose space • Restrooms • Office • storage
Conditions:	The Teen Center is in excellent shape. The building is two years old and is maintained to the best possible condition.
Observations/ Comments:	The center is open six days a week and welcomes youth ages six to seventeen. There are specific hours when pre-teens are permitted and hours for teens only. The center features a variety of arcade type games, pool tables, air hockey, foosball, the latest in gaming systems (Wii and Xbox), computer area, and areas for watching TV, doing homework or just socializing. The center offers a variety of scheduled programs, activities and events as well.
Recommendations:	• Replace furniture • New pool table • New foosball table

4.3.2. Special Use Facilities

Facilities/Parks that serve a specific recreational interest include:

- Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course at South Harbour – 4188 Vanessa Drive
- Heron Lookout – 40th SE at Davis Canal
- Environmental Overlook and Trail – 31st SE behind Recreation Center
- Skate Park/ SK8 Park – 49th SE and Beach Drive
- Middleton Park Extension – 46th SE and Dolphin
- The Point – West end of Oak Island
- William S. "Bill" Smith Park – 4410 Fish Factory Road
- Oak Island Ocean Education Center – 49th SE and Beach Drive
- Oak Island Nature Center – 5202 East Yacht Drive

OAK ISLAND PAR 3 GOLF COURSE at South Harbour

Classification:	Special Use
Acres:	28 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 18 hole par 3 course • Pro Shop • Putting green • Maintenance area
Conditions:	The golf course is in excellent shape. The Public Works staff has done an outstanding job of maintaining the course and improving playing conditions. The small pro shop is modestly stocked with all equipment and supplies needed for a round of golf. Small improvements are made annually to the shop including painting and addition of display racks and merchandise.
Observations/ Comments:	Overall the golf course is a successfully operated municipal facility. The course receives a respectable amount of daily play and hosts a variety of department coordinated events, lessons and specials, in addition to outside tournaments.
Recommendations:	• Need for appropriate Pro Shop to enable increased revenue • More targeted marketing to increase play and revenue • Improved signage • Access to clubhouse to better package events and rentals

HERON LOOKOUT

Classification:	Special Use/Environmental
Acres:	.18 acres
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	• Gazebo • Bulkhead on Davis Canal • Bench • Picnic table • parking
Conditions:	The park is in good condition. It is a passive park that receives a tremendous amount of use from patrons bait cast netting and crabbing. Observing nature and photography are also popular at this park.
Observations/ Comments:	Regular inspection of the bulkhead, gazebo, and other amenities is needed. Park is an ideal location for environmental education placards that provide information on surroundings, animal life, and care of waterways.
Recommendations:	• Develop routine maintenance inspections of all amenities • Provide informational signage • Repairs to bulkhead • Repairs to sidewalk • Repair fence along roadway • Replace fence in parking lot • Address erosion issues

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLOOK AND TRAIL

Classification:	Special Use/Environmental
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• (4) Viewing platforms • Observation tower • Walkway across Davis Canal • Natural trail
Conditions:	The condition of the platforms and crossover is good. Access to the observation tower can become overgrown and is in area that is subject to tide changes and often has the presence of snakes. Wooden structures need to be checked regularly for wear.
Observations/ Comments:	The overlook trail is in need of landscaping and planting of seasonal flowers and vegetation. To date the trail is natural and most of the tree and vegetation labels are missing. An opportunity exists to devote some attention to the area and restore the educational environment that the trail/ boardwalk was developed to enjoy. Concern regarding observation tower - it is in a remote area and often is the site of undesirable teen behavior.
Recommendations:	• Devote time and attention to • revitalizing the overlook trail and its surroundings • Develop a regular maintenance check of the crossover and • boardwalk • Give consideration to the • observation tower and a possible relocation

SKATE PARK/SK8 PARK

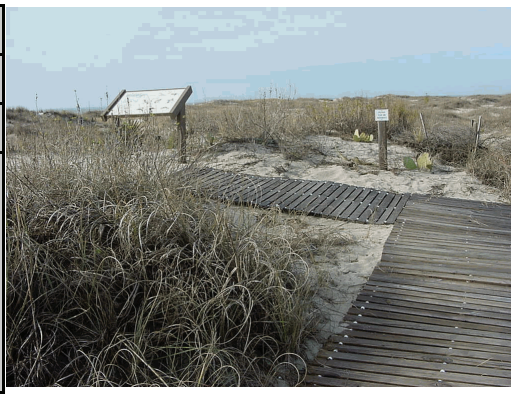
Classification:	Special Use/Athletic/Active Recreation
Acres:	.2 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 2 quarter pipes • 2 banks • Street spine • Lighted/fenced facility
Conditions:	The skate park is in good condition for a nine year old facility. Routine maintenance and annual off season repairs have kept the park in good operating condition. Future replacement/ upgrades of aging ramps and dated equipment.
Observations/ Comments:	The Skate Park continues to be a high traffic facility. Local and visiting skaters enjoy the park as is continuously indicated by the attendance numbers. The fact that the park is supervised is a major reason that the facility has remained in such good shape for its age. The supervision is also contributed to the relatively low injury rate for such a high risk activity. The department continues to receive high praise from skaters and parents for the operation of the Skate Park and for providing such a facility.
Recommendations:	• Upgrade/update aging ramps and equipment to suit needs of skaters • Replace fall zone surfacing • Addition of concrete entry to facility • Replace and add additional shade canopies • Replace/upgrade staff observation area in the pen— shade, seating • Improve lighting • Consider future relocation of facility and expansion

MIDDLETON PARK EXTENSION

Classification:	Special Use/Athletics/Active Recreation
Acres:	3.95 acres
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	• Lighted Soccer/Multi Purpose field • Lighted Softball field • 6 lighted tennis courts • Lighted NCAA regulation basketball court • Concession stand • Public restrooms • Tee ball field
Conditions:	Park and facilities are in good condition. Lights on softball and soccer fields are in need of replacement/repair. Field conditions and maintenance could be improved. Dugouts and backstop have received some attention but are in need of replacement/repair. Tennis courts #1 through #4 are in need of resurfacing. Tennis courts #5 and #6 and basketball court are new and receive tremendous use. Landscaping and addition of gazebo in green space area around courts is in the works. Shade for courts would be beneficial.
Observations/ Comments:	The park and facilities receive considerable use from organized athletic activities and special events, such as the "First Crawl Environmental Festival", to movie night and Spooktacular, as well as daily general public use. It is imperative that these facilities be maintained to the highest standard as this is the key outdoor recreation facility on the island.
Recommendations:	• Repair/upgrade existing lighting • Replace/upgrade existing irrigation system and utilize reclaimed water • Add a 1/4 mile surfaced track around fields on Dolphin • Construct bridge with direct access to restrooms and concession stand • Relocate trash site • Relocate parking for PW vehicles • Maintain fields year round, reseed, irrigate, etc. • Landscape parking areas and • maintain • Replace movie screen • Add shade structures for tennis courts

THE POINT

Classification:	Special Use/Environmental
Acres:	10.5 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Boardwalk • Signage • Parking • Port-a-john
Conditions:	This park is in poor condition in regards to its original intent. Path-ways are no longer visible, signs have tremendous buildup of sand and are no longer at a level where they can be read. The handicap-accessible path is no longer there, and the shade canopy was destroyed.
Observations/ Comments:	This park is in need of some major revitalization. Decisions need to be made as to what is intended for this land. PARTF funds developed the trail and the signage and area must remain for recreation.
Recommendations:	• Pull remaining signs and • determine ones that can be salvaged • Possible uses for the area need to be discussed • Plans for future use need to be in place



WILLIAM S. "BILL"SMITH PARK

Classification:	Special Use/Athletics/Active Recreation
Acres:	32 acres
Status:	Phased development (2 phases complete)
Existing Facilities:	• Lighted football field • 4 lighted baseball fields • Concession stand • Lighted sand volleyball court • Croquet court • Restrooms • Nine-hole disc golf course • Walking/nature trail • Picnic shelter • Aframe building (available as rental)
Conditions:	The park is in excellent condition, well maintained and well utilized. Baseball fields are in constant use from March through August. Football field is well utilized for youth football, flag football and also the home field of the Wilmington Semi Pro football team. The Disc golf course is a popular draw year round hosting several tournaments and continuous daily play. The croquet court is also used as a practice field for youth soccer. Use of court for multi purpose use is necessary due to the lack of soccer fields in the area. A-frame and picnic shelter as facility rentals has begun to generate additional revenue and increase the popularity of the park.
Observations/ Comments:	The park is a showcase facility throughout the county and hosts a multitude of recreational activities in addition to the obvious athletics. Community groups and churches rent the facility for special events and the Parks and Recreation Department utilizes the park for its annual Easter Egg Hunt and concert series. The department also hosted an international soccer camp at the park this past summer. The park is also well utilized by walkers, joggers, and those seeking a quiet location to enjoy nature. The park is also the host site for the 2011 Dixie Youth Baseball State Tournament.
Recommendations:	• Continue phased development of park to include walk-in camp sites, soccer fields, additional restroom facilities, picnic shelters, boardwalk, fishing pier, canoe/kayak water access and amphitheater. • Some public concerns over infield composition (safety). Have infields analyzed for proper makeup. • Increase promotion of facility as a revenue generator, Aframe, Picnic shelter, event/festival host facility, baseball tournament site, etc...

OAK ISLAND OCEAN EDUCATION CENTER (OEC)

Classification:	Special Use Facility (Educational Venue)
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Exhibits and displays • Restroom • Upstairs office and storage
Conditions:	The facility is in fair condition. The facility was damaged during hurricane Floyd but was restored to current useable condition. Facility is maintained to the best possible condition.
Observations/ Comments:	The OEC continues to be a big draw for visitors and locals. The department also schedules tours and presentations for area school groups throughout the year and for area camp programs during the summer. The center provides information regarding native marine life, educational and safety information regarding tides and ocean conditions, books, videos, hands-on projects and a section of the facility dedicated to the sea turtle protection program.
Recommendations:	• New displays • Expand facility • Handicap accessibility

OAK ISLAND NATURE CENTER

Classification:	Special Use Facility (Education Venue)
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• 1500 sq. ft building • Live animal displays • Educational exhibits
Conditions:	Facility is in good condition. Special care is given on a daily basis to the animals that are housed at the Nature Center including cleaning cages and exercise. The building is also cleaned daily and ensures that visitors are met with a pleasant all-around experience.
Observations/ Comments:	The Nature Center continues to be a big draw for visitors and locals. The department also schedules tours and presentations for area school groups throughout the year and for area camp programs during the summer. The center has become a rescue site for various animals that are injured or can no longer be cared for by their owners. This has worked well in exhibit replacement.
Recommendations:	• Replace flooring • Expand the facility to include enclosing the first floor • Rotate exhibits and develop a monthly feature • Coordinate more evening programs—the majority of the animals are nocturnal

4.3.3. General Use Facilities

Facilities/Parks that offer passive outdoor recreational opportunities include:

- Middleton Park – Oak Island Drive and 48th SE
- Commissioners Observatory Park – McGlamery Street and Ocean Drive
- Yaupon Park – Barbee Boulevard at Ocean Drive
- Waterway Park – 14th NE and Yacht Drive
- Hannon A. Templeton Park – 41st NE and Oak Island Drive
- Memorial Park – 52nd NE and Yacht Drive
- May Moore Park – Barbee Boulevard at Elizabeth Drive
- Malcolm Register Park – 52nd NE at the Intracoastal Waterway

MIDDLETON PARK

Classification:	General Use
Acres:	.97 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Gazebo • Picnic tables • Playground equipment and swings • Restrooms • parking
Conditions:	Park is in fair condition. Middleton Park is the only park in Oak Island with playground equipment. The equipment receives a tremendous amount on use on a daily basis. The gazebo which is frequently reserved for birthday parties, and family gatherings is in need of repair. The park has minimum grass area.
Observations/ Comments:	The park is in need of expanded play-ground equipment and swings. The gazebo needs to be repaired or replaced. This park receives a great deal of use and is the largest park on the island.
Recommendations:	• Replace gazebo with updated structure that can serve as a picnic shelter and a stage for events • Expand playground—look at modern and challenging systems for youth ages 9-12 years • Improve grounds maintenance (grass and landscaping)

COMMISSIONERS OBSERVATORY (PARK)

Classification:	General Use (passive use park)
Acres:	.57 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Bench swing • Gazebo and viewing platform • Picnic table • Handicap ramp • shower
Conditions:	Park condition is fair. Regular routine maintenance and upkeep is needed.
Observations/ Comments:	The park provides handicap access to an observation platform that has a picnic table and bench swing. Routine maintenance and upkeep needed for grounds. Area shower needs appropriate surfacing and shower needs to be maintained at a functioning level—winterized, etc.
Recommendations:	• Paint ramp, railings and platform • Surfacing at shower • Grounds upkeep, landscaping • Upkeep of shower

YAUPON PARK

Classification:	General Use Park
Acres:	,15 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Picnic table • Bench swing • Outdoor shower • parking
Conditions:	Park is in good condition. It is an oceanfront street end park in close proximity to Oak Island Pier. It also has a foot wash/shower that is a rare commodity. This park receives most of its considerable use by beach goers desiring to be close to the pier and having the convenience of a place to rinse off after a day at the beach.
Observations/ Comments:	Park needs some general maintenance to tidy the grounds and level the picnic table. Bench swing height seems high and area is not truly handicap accessible.
Recommendations:	• Routine grounds maintenance • Repair or replace picnic table • Routine maintenance and care of shower and surrounding area

WATERWAY PARK

Classification:	General Use Park
Acres:	1.09 acres
Status:	Developed (boat ramps to be added)
Existing Facilities:	• Gazebo • Benches • Picnic tables • Public parking • Port-a-john
Conditions:	The park is in good condition. Enhanced landscaping and daily policing of trash is needed. The park provides ample parking and a wonderful view of the Intracoastal Waterway.
Observations/ Comments:	The addition of the proposed boat ramps will undoubtedly increase the use of this park. Park is a great spot for fishing, crabbing, and watching the world go by. More attention to the grounds would enhance the appearance of the park. Better publicity and public awareness of the park and its amenities, specifically the gazebo, could be a potential revenue source.
Recommendations:	• Enhance landscaping and policing of grounds • Publicize park more and explore revenue potential for rental of gazebo • Upon completion of boat ramps, permanent restroom and shower facilities • Additional parking or specific designated trailer parking area • Add restroom facilities

HANNON A. TEMPLETON PARK

Classification:	General Use Park
Acres	.79 acres
Status:	Partially developed
Existing Facilities:	• Benches • Bench swings • Picnic tables • Dog park • Storage shed
Conditions:	The park is in good condition. It has been left in a mostly natural state. The dog park is a small fenced in area with available water for dogs visiting the park. There is no grass or surfacing in the dog park. The storage building is falling in on itself and needs to be torn down and replaced.
Observations/ Comments:	The park is not very well utilized. An attempt was made by Public Works to grow some native trees and vegetation at the site. The dog park was relocated to this site and expanded in early 2010. The dog park is utilized more than the park itself but can only accommodate a limited numbers of dogs at one time.
Recommendations:	• Relocate the dog park to a bigger and better suited area • Demolish existing building and build a storage shed • Add restroom facilities • Explore alternative uses for the park that will be better appreci-ated by the community • Add restroom facilities

MEMORIAL PARK

Classification:	General Use park (passive)
Acres:	.85 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Water feature • Flower garden area • Nature trail with environmental signage • Restrooms • Public parking at site and across the street • benches
Conditions:	The park is in good condition. Water feature and garden area require routine care. Nature Trail and surrounding path requires frequent care and monitoring for overgrowth, down trees, vandalism, etc.
Observations/ Comments:	Trail needs maintenance to remove overgrowth, treat poison ivy, remove branches and dead trees. Garden needs year round care to support flowers and plants that will survive during each season. Water feature and shelter are in need of repairs. This park is an ideal location to enjoy nature and other passive leisure activities.
Recommendations:	• Maintain nature trail and surrounding path • Plant and maintain seasonal flowers and plants in garden • Make repairs to shelter and water feature • New metal roof for restrooms

MAY MOORE PARK

Classification:	General Use
Acres:	.33 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Picnic area (handicap table) • Benches • Bench swing • Floating dock • Marsh viewing • Water access (canoe/kayak)
Conditions:	The park is in good shape and is located at the end of Barbee Blvd., and Yacht Drive. Quiet, well shaded street end neighborhood passive park with access to the marsh, good location for enjoying a picnic or observing nature.
Observations/ Comments:	The park contains a handicap picnic table and a concrete path to the table, but no accessibility from the parking lot. The park provides lots of shade and a great view of the marsh and waterway. There are fence posts located along Yacht Drive but there are no rails.
Recommendations:	• Replace picnic tables • Handicap accessibility • Addition of wildlife signs • Add rails to fence posts (buffer from Yacht Drive) • Bike rack

MALCOLM REGISTER PARK

Classification:	General Use
Acres:	.90 acres
Status:	developed
Existing Facilities:	• Fishing T • Picnic shelter • Benches • Bike rack
Conditions:	The park is in good condition. The picnic shelter is in need of paint and a new roof. Picnic tables need to be replaced.
Observations/ Comments:	Register Park is located on the Intracoastal Waterway and is a great location for fishing, enjoying nature or picnicking. The park is located adjacent to the Nature Center, and Memorial park, which offers restroom facilities.
Recommendations:	• Replace picnic tables (include handicap table) • Paint shelter • New metal roof for shelter • Make facility handicap accessible • Security lighting • Regular maintenance to include seeding and landscaping • Repair water fountain • Repair fence throughout parking lot • landscaping

4.4 Services

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of recreational activities, programs, and services. These recreation programs, cultural activities, and leisure opportunities are intended to contribute to the positive quality of life in the community. Recreational programs and services can provide the following benefits:

- Sense of belonging
- Healthy lifestyles
- Safety and security
- Youth development
- Personal growth
- Strong family units
- Environmental stewardship
- Fun and celebration
- Socialization

Recreational opportunities typically provided by public recreation agencies range from active organized sports, classes, youth activities, family, and community events, to more passive endeavors such as picnics, biking, and walking. The mission of any recreation department is to promote constructive use of leisure time and foster a lifelong commitment to healthy lifestyles, and strong community.

A complete inventory of program offerings and participation for FY 2008-2009, FY 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 are included in this study. It is the mission of the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department to offer a variety of both active and passive leisure opportunities that appeal to all ages, interests, and skill levels.

4.5 Programming

Youth/Teens:

- Preschool
- After school
- Teen Center activities
- Summer enrichment programs
- Out of school activities
- Softball
- Golf lessons
- Sailing lessons

Adults:

- Flag football
- Soccer
- Fitness classes
- Family events
- Kayak tours
- Woman Anglers In Training program (W.A.I.T)
- Bike rides
- Golf tournaments
- Fishing seminars

Seniors:

- Fitness classes (water aerobics, aerobics, zumba)
- Trips and tours
- Senior parties
- Dominoes/rumikub/bingo

Special Events:

- Holiday events (Christmas, Easter, July 4, Halloween, Thanksgiving)
- Beach Day
- Environmental Festival
- Kayak race

In reviewing the programs and services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department it is obvious that the staff is dedicated to providing quality programs that meet the needs and demands of the community. Staff continuously seeks public input in regards to program offerings and routine evaluations are conducted to judge the satisfaction of the participants. The department makes every effort to offer programs and services that fit the needs of the community based on

demand, interest, and trends. Given the current resources the Parks and Recreation Department appears to be doing an outstanding job of providing recreational and leisure services.

4.6 Participation

The following tables show the participation numbers for fiscal years (FY) 2008/09, 2009/10, and 2010/11 through January 2011. The numbers indicate that the community is actively involved in recreation and that the Town provides a comprehensive menu of leisure pursuits for all ages and interests.

Table 2: Town of Oak Island Facility and Program Participation

	Fiscal Year		
Facility Participation	**FY 2008 – 2009**	**FY 2009 – 2010**	**FY 2010 – 2011 7 months***
Nature Center	3,400	3,500	2,074
Ocean Education Center	2,000	2,100	1,369
Teen Center	2,500	3,000	1,923
Program Participation			
Fitness classes/programs	5,700	6,000	3,181
Summer camps	760	800	1,624
Youth activities	80	90	31
Environmental programs	410	600	1,585
Teen/pre-teen programs	800	900	493
Youth athletics	3,101	2,248	530
Adult athletics	6,061	6,342	2,463
Skate Park/ SK8	2,620	2,780	691
Kayak Programs/Trips	417	510	276
Fishing Programs/Tournaments	790	850	179
Senior Programs/outings	2,000	2,400	965
Special Events	800	900	1,392

*Through January 31, 2011

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is diligent in its efforts to track numbers of participants in classes, programs, special events and track able facility usage. However, the tremendous use that facilities such Bill Smith Park, Oak Island Pier, cabana, tennis courts, basketball courts, Middleton Park, boat ramps, beach access sites, fishing t's, and even general use at the Recreation Center are not accounted for in any of the participation figures.

Bill Smith Park for example is open 365 days a year, sun up to sun down. Patrons visit the park to play disc golf, walk the trails, picnic, walk their dogs, etc. Dixie Youth baseball practices and plays games from March through June of each season. Numbers for participants are attainable but not the true usage given a six day a week practice schedule and five day a week game schedule. In addition the number of spectators is an unaccounted figure as well.

For purposes of this study below is the yearly estimate of facility usage not been captured in other attendance numbers:

- Bill Smith Park – 50,000
- Middleton Park – 13,500
- Tennis courts - 4500
- Basketball courts (Middleton and Recreation Center) – 3500
- Middleton Park Extension – 3000
- Cabana – 10,000
- Oak Island Pier – 10,000
- Water accesses – 10,000
- Fishing T's – 1200
- Recreation Center (general) – 7500

Table 3: Town of Oak Island Community Resource Center: Programs and Participation

	Fiscal Year		
Programs and Participation	**FY 2008 – 2009**	**FY 2009 – 2010**	**FY 2010 – 2011 7 months***
Preschool Program	1,686	1,702	1,020
Preschool Summer Camp	800	820	571
After school Program – After School Camp	2,488	2,664	1,561
Senior Programs	1183	1149	566
Support Groups	27	24	36
CRC Advisory Board	37	46	36
Seasonal Programs	129	151	68
Information/Referral Resource Linkage	1,219	1,119	410
Volunteers	121	56	33

*Through January 31, 2011

Table 4: Town of Oak Island – Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course at South Harbour

	Fiscal Year		
Participation	**FY 2008 – 2009**	**FY 2009 – 2010**	**FY 2010 – 2011 7 months***
Rounds of Golf	11,373	12,365	6,799
Revenue	$124,938	$97,320	$88,576

*Through January 31, 2011

The community participation in recreation programs and wellness/leisure activities as indicated in the above charts is steady. As is expected there are fluctuations in attendance numbers and even trends that indicate individual activities are preferred over team and group programs. There is no notable drop-off in any recreation activity that raises concern or need to discontinue.

Table 5: Recreation Center Use: Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009

	Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 (FY 2008 - 2009)												
Club/Activity	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**March**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**TOTAL**
Art Guild Workshop & Exhibits	20	13	37	27	155	25	21	47	29	23	29	19	445
Beach Consortium						12							12
Beach Preservation Society									9	10	7	6	32
Boat Club										17			17
Board of Adjustments									12				12
Beautification Club		9		22	15		9	14	15				84
Bridge	132	130	90	132	125	120	171	170	210	148	148	162	1738
Bridge Contractors/ Inspectors						22							22
CAMA Land Use Plan						11							11
Capital Improvement Committee	6	6	6	8	8	12	7	7	26	7	7		100
Country/Bluegrass Music	95	90	60	128	76	81	57	54	54	58	115		868
Cub Scouts			34	37	22	7	29	45	14				188
Damage Assessment Team Meeting												32	32
Estuarine/ Shoreline Stabilization	5	4	4	6	4	5	6		4	4	6	7	55
Feral/Stray Cat Club	4	8	4	4			4	4	4	5	5	6	48
Fishing Club					40	-	9		26	5		15	95
Football Coaches Meeting								7					7
Game Room	152	146	60	50	74	69	106	135	218	216	112	194	1532
Green Initiative Advisory Board								10					10
Hurricane Meetings - Staff/Public	60												60
Kayak/ Canoe Rentals	12	14	3	1					3	6	6	22	67
Lifeline Screening							65						65
NC DOT Information – Public Meeting	20												20
No Port Southport public meeting										35			35
Nutri-Lunch						390	394	385	392	393	397	396	2747
Painting Club			2	24	10	1	7	1					45
Planning Board	11	10	25	10	8	8	12	25	18	17	7		151
Elections – Polling Site					1610								1610
Quilters	47	44	56	70	51	26	48	70	67	79	78	59	695
Recreation Advisory Board	7	10	9	23	9	7	11	7	9	7	8	8	115
Room Rentals	1	1	1	6	5	6	6	6	7	1	1	1	42
Safety Meeting						100							100
Senior Dinner					85				73	55			213
Sewer Meetings	18	17	19		10				36		20	11	131
Sherriff's Meeting												15	15
Stormwater Advisory Board	6	5	4	6	5	10	7	4	5	2		2	56
Stormwater Public Workshop									18				18
Take Off Pounds Sensibly	53	55	66	59	27	45	54	57	69	51	62	71	669
Town Council	171	180	25	100		55	35	87	137	63	50	64	967
Town Hall – Pre-Bid Meeting								27	20				47
Town Staff meeting on 401K							80						80
Tree City USA		4	4	10	11	8	7	4	5	7		6	66
Trick-or-Treat at Recreation Center				30									30
Water Training									50				50
Weight/Fitness Orientation	8	5	3		1	3	5	10	1	4	4	2	46
Weight/Fitness Room	2257	2134	1662	1730	1493	1594	2490	2454	2543	1906	1766	1994	24023
Wheelchair Rentals	17	19	1	1	1	1	1			2	5	20	68
Yoga (evening)	83	82	54	76	66	82	148	93	136	108	98	147	1173
Total # of Participants	**3185**	**2986**	**2229**	**2573**	**3756**	**2707**	**3889**	**3723**	**4230**	**3229**	**2931**	**3259**	**38712**

Table 6: Recreation Center Use: Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010

	Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 (FY 2009 - 2010)												
Club/Activity	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**March**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**TOTAL**
Art Guild Workshop & Exhibits	22	34	18	17	150	28	25		15	15	20	18	362
Beach Consortium						20							20
Beach Preservation Society	8	9	9	10	11	14	11	14	20	6	10	12	134
Board of Adjustments						14							14
Beautification Club				20	18		16	15	21		50		140
Candidate Forums				184									184
Book Signing								52					52
Bridge	139	140	117	162	208	141	158	122	129	190	125	150	1781
Canoe Rentals	12	4								5	1		22
Capital Improvement Committee		25	7	7	7	11	11	11		14			93
Country/Bluegrass Music	67	73		153	70		170	75	50	120	50	56	889
Cub Scouts			7	8	39		58	29	10				151
Estuarine/Shoreline Stabilization Committee		5	3	5	6	6	4	6	2		5		42
Exercise Class (private)				13									13
Feral/Stray Cat Club	5	7	4	5			10	9		7	5	8	60
Fishing Club and Seminars				6		11	23	7	15		5	9	76
Football Coaches Meeting								8					8
Game Room	229	140	66	98	89	82	99	113	148	243	141	227	1675
Community Watch												8	8
Long Beach ARA Hearing				46									46
Kayak Rentals	21	21								4	2	40	88
Kickboxing											6		6
NC DOT Public Meeting							25						25
Nutri-Lunch	389	400	468	369	312	375	394	396	369	468	404	468	4812
Oak Island Business & Tourism			10	10	6	6	5	8		6	10	7	68
Parks and Recreation Master Plan			25	52		10	98						185
Planning Board	18	12		30		13	9	22	13	7			124
Pool Committee	4						5	4					13
Elections – Polling Site					810								810
Quilters	52	55	69	68	28	48	63	74	73	77	31	82	720
Recreation Advisory Board	8	8	9	9	7	9	10	9	10	10	9		98
Room Rentals	1		1	1			1						4
Senior Dinner				75	70								145
Safety Meeting		102											102
Shag Club			8										8
Sewer Meetings							17						17
Staff First Aid							16						16
Stormwater Advisory Board	1	1	6		1							5	14
Take Off Pounds Sensibly	59	52	54	48	47	41	55	38	51	60	31	56	592
Town Council	80	60	63	90	86	150	164	30	45	40	30	75	913
Town Hall – Pre-Bid Meeting		5											5
Tree City USA			7	5	7		13	4	6		6		48
Turtle Volunteers							33						33
Water Training/ Staff Wellness									16				16
Weight/Fitness Orientation				3			6	5		4	2	5	25
Weight/Fitness Room	2122	1912	1666	1834	1762	1307	2512	2371	1921	1954	1634	1962	22957
Wheelchair Rentals	30	15	10	3	1				2	5	7	17	90
Yoga (evening)	69	110	89	82	110	95	120	114	123	92	62	129	1195
Yoga (senior)								97		68			165
Total # of Participants	**3336**	**3190**	**2741**	**3413**	**3845**	**2386**	**4131**	**3633**	**3039**	**3395**	**2646**	**3334**	**39089**

Table 7: Recreation Center Use: Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011

	Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 (FY 2010 - 2011)												
Club/Activity	**July**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**March**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**TOTAL**
Art Guild Workshop & Exhibits	25	14	17	19	200	20	32						327
Beach Preservation Society		8	10										18
Beautification Club				30									30
Bridge	148	96	155	115	139	119	60						832
Canoe Rentals		2		1									3
Community Watch	12		11	13									36
Country/Bluegrass Music	150	50	113	53			33						399
Cub Scouts				20	100		15						135
Estuarine/Shoreline Stabilization Committee		3	5	4									12
Feral/Stray Cat Club	6	4	7	8			6						31
Game Room	240	140	54	103	65	65	39						706
Girl Scouts							93						93
Kayak Rentals	35	26	21	6									88
Mature Aerobics					125								125
Nutri-Lunch	377	369	400	396	309	326	389						2566
Painting Club							15						15
Elections – Polling Site				500	200								700
Quilters	64	56	57	87	88	10	42						404
Recreation Advisory Board	9	7	9	9	9	9	9						61
Room Rentals		1	3	1			3						8
Senior Citizens Committee							6						6
Senior Dinner					100								100
Stormwater Advisory Board				5	5		6						16
Take Off Pounds Sensibly	65	46	36	47	26	26	33						279
Weight/Fitness Orientation	7	5	3	1			4						20
Weight/Fitness Room	2112	1920	1648	1550	1564	1504	2373						12671
Wheelchair Rentals	33	20	13	3									69
Yoga (evening)	78	108	55	91	76	52	70						530
Yoga (senior)	62	58	60	56	69	33	74						412
Total # of Participants	**3423**	**2933**	**2677**	**3118**	**3075**	**2164**	**3302**						**20692**

In reviewing the programs and services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department it is obvious that the staff is dedicated to providing quality programs that meet the needs and demands of the community. Staff continuously seeks public input in regards to program offerings and routine evaluations are conducted to judge the satisfaction of the participants. The department makes every effort to offer programs and services that fit the needs of the community based on demand, interest and trends. Given the current resources the Parks and Recreation Department appears to be doing an outstanding job of providing recreational and leisure services; however additional demands for increased programming and leisure opportunities cannot be met. The lack of programmable space is evident and as the numbers indicate the weight and fitness facility is often at capacity. The absence of a gymnasium/recreation complex in the community further limits the ability of the department to meet the growing needs of the citizens. A gymnasium/recreation complex would expand the programming potential indefinitely, including basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, walking and running programs, concerts and plays, a rain site for many festivals and an opportunity to generate revenue. This facility would also enable the senior nutritional lunch program to expand and meet demands with a commercial kitchen and serving area. The continued increase in instructional health and wellness activities could be better met with an aerobic room with proper flooring, audio system and acoustics.

Given its current resources the Town does a commendable job of providing an array of leisure opportunities. The growing population and demand for recreational opportunities now, and in the next ten years, is well documented in this plan.

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 5

Needs Assessment/Community Input

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

5.0 Public Input

5.1 Methodology

In the fall of 2009, a twenty-question survey was distributed to Oak Island residents. Approximately 9,000 of these questionnaires were enclosed with Oak Island residents' monthly water or recycling bills requesting that the completed survey be returned with their utility payment[1]. This methodology ensured that the questionnaire would be available to permanent residents as well as part-time property owners. It was determined by the steering committee that this method of distribution would reach the greatest number of citizens who have both an economic stake in Oak Island's future and who have a comprehensive knowledge of the needs of the community.

Of the 9,000 surveys distributed, 549 completed questionnaires were returned. This represents an approximate rate of response of 6%, which is slightly better than the average expected return rate for a typical, unsolicited municipal survey[2].

Questions for the survey were developed by the steering committee. The questions fall into four broad areas:

1. Questions that gauge the respondent's familiarity with the programs and facilities of the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department.
2. Questions about the respondent's experiences and evaluation of the department's facilities and programming.
3. The respondent's desires for future changes in the administration, programming, and facility planning for the department
4. A series of demographic questions to help categorize the respondent's background.

Because the questionnaires were distributed one per household, survey questions were structured to encourage the respondent to reply on behalf of themselves as well as other residents or family members within their household.

The collected surveys were numbered and the Independent Data Processing Inc tabulated the data. The analysis of the data was developed with the guidance of the steering committee and town staff. All responses to questions for which participants were offered the opportunity to enter handwritten comments were read and summarized by members of the steering committee. Summaries of the written responses are included in the Appendix of this study. All original survey forms are on file with the Parks and Recreation Department and available for inspection.

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[1] The surveys were printed on a colored paper stock of a size nominally smaller than a standard 8 ½ x 14 sheet, provisions included to prevent unauthorized reproduction of the questionnaire.
[2] A response rate of 5% for an unsolicited municipal survey in which return postage is provided is generally considered to be a successful return rate. Return postage was not provided for this survey.

5.2 Respondent Profile

The majority of survey respondents are long-time Oak Island residents, with nearly 75% having lived in the community for six years or more. Most respondents have their primary residence located east of Middleton, 28.3% have a residence west of Middleton, 9.9% indicate Yaupon as the location of their primary residence, and 6.1% have a residence on Oak Island's mainland.

Length of Oak Island Residency	
0-5 Years	22.4%
6-15 Years	44.4%
16-25 Years	16.2%
More Than 25 Years	13.7%
No Answer	3.3%

When asked to identify their household type, 39.5% of respondents indicated they were retired, living either alone or as a couple. 27.9% self-identified as a couple without children[9] living in the household. Couples with children accounted for 21.5%. Singles without children accounted for 6.6% of all respondents, 1.6% were single parents, 0.6% lived in households in which the occupants were unrelated, and 3.3% of all respondents chose not to answer the question.

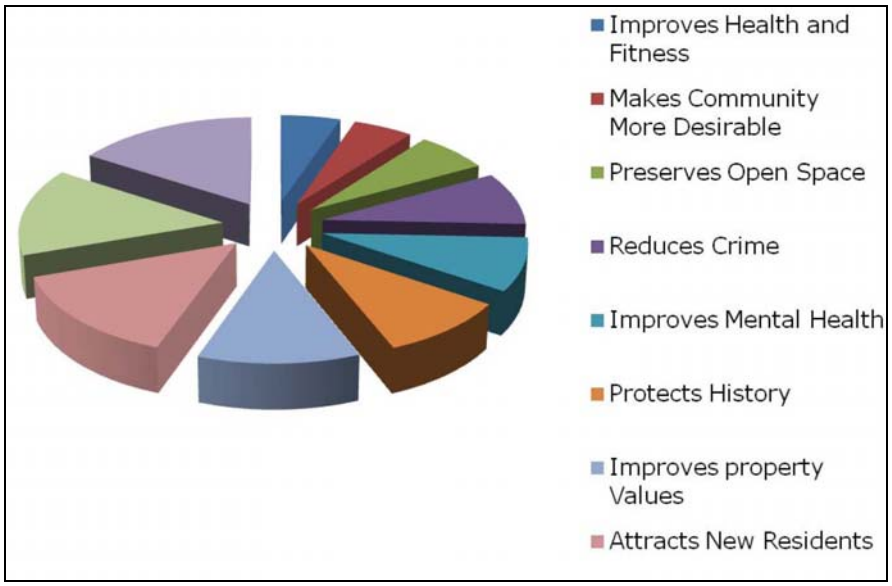
Most respondents described themselves as full-time Oak Island residents, 43.1% described themselves as part-time residents, and 5% did not answer.

When asked to rank the benefits that result from a municipal park and recreation department and its programming on a 1-5 scale, the respondents surveyed showed the following results, which is also depicted in Figure 1.

Presumed Benefit	1-5 Ranking (1 indicates greatest benefit)
Improves Health and Fitness	1.65
Makes Community More Desirable	1.65
Preserves Open Space	2.04
Reduces Crime	2.71
Improves Mental Health	2.73
Protects History	2.99
Improves Property Values	3.63
Attracts New Residents	4.47
Promotes Tourism	4.50
Provides Opportunities for Different Cultures[3]	> 5.00

[3] For all questions that requested a rank ordering, the summary tabulation is based on both the number of times a given item was cited and the rank assigned by each respondent, tabulated as a percentage of all responses and then transposed back into a weighted 1-5 scale. Responses that were cited either infrequently or ranked very low appear in the summary tabulation as greater than.

Figure 1: Presumed Benefit

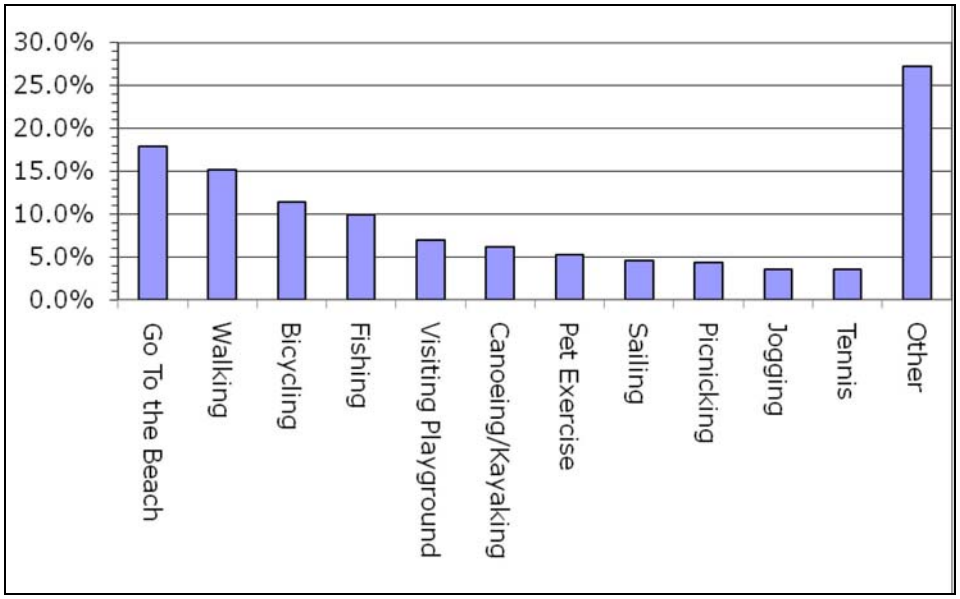


When asked to rank the most favored recreational activities, respondents identified the following activities, listed in descending order of percentage of total responses, which are also depicted in Figure 2.

Favored Form of Recreation	Ranking by % of Response
Go To the Beach	17.9%
Walking	15.2%
Bicycling	11.4%
Fishing	9.9%
Visiting Playground	7.0%
Canoeing/Kayaking	6.2%
Pet Exercise	5.2%
Sailing	4.6%
Picnicking	4.4%
Jogging	3.6%
Tennis	3.6%
Other (Less than 3% each)[4]	27.2 %

[4] Other includes activities that registered citations accounting for less than 3% of the total. Citations recorded, but less than 3% include (in descending order): Hiking, Snorkeling, Off-road Biking, Golf, Bocce, Disc Golf, and Croquet.

Figure 2: Favored Form of Recreation



5.3 The Composite Survey Respondent

Based on these data, the composite survey respondent is an older, long-term island resident, unlikely to have school age children living at home. They view the value of recreation principally for its benefit to individual health and the quality of life in their community. These residents tend to favor recreational activities closely related to the attributes of their place of residence - a seaside community with ample opportunities to participate in water sports and activities. Of the top six most favored recreational activities, half are directly related to water-based activities, accounting for 43% of all responses.

5.4 Familiarity and Assessment with Parks & Recreation Department Parks and Facilities

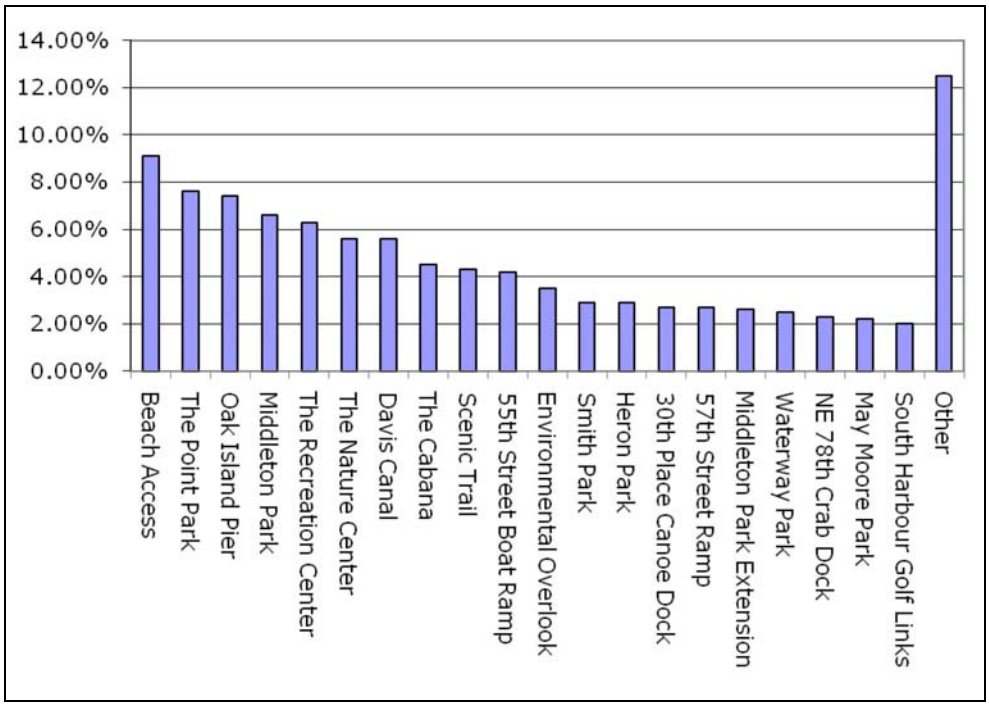
At least 88.5% of all respondents indicated that they had visited a Parks and Recreation Department facility in the previous year. Of these, 27.3% visited more than once a week, 10.7% visited about once a week, 23.4% visited about once a month, and 34% visited 3-5 times per year. 8.3% of respondents had not visited a Parks and Recreation Department park or facility in the past year and 3% gave no answer.

When asked to identify parks, facilities, or other Oak Island recreational amenities that the respondent visits most frequently, the following locations and amenities were cited in descending order of the percentage of all responses, which are depicted in Figure 3.

Beach Access	9.1%
The Point Park	7.6%
Oak Island Pier	7.4%
Middleton Park	6.6%
The Recreation Center	6.3%
The Nature Center	5.6%

Davis Canal	5.6%
The Cabana	4.5%
Scenic Trail	4.3%
55th Street Boat Ramp	4.2%
Environmental Overlook	3.5%
Smith Park	2.9%
Heron Park	2.9%
30th Place Canoe Dock	2.7%
57th Street Ramp	2.7%
Middleton Park Extension	2.6%
Waterway Park	2.5%
NE 78th Crab Dock	2.3%
May Moore Park	2.2%
South Harbour Golf Links	2.0%
Other (less than 2% each)[5]	12.5%

Figure 3: Facilities Visited Most Frequently

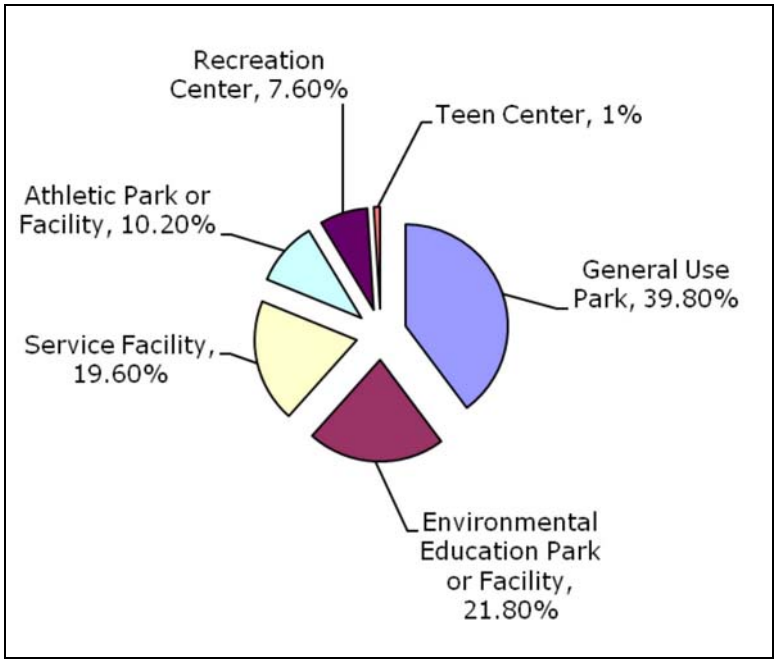


[5] Other includes parks, buildings, and facilities that registered lower than 2% of the total. In descending order: Community Park, Templeton Park, Malcolm Register Park, Yaupon Park, The Ocean Education Center, Skate Park, Tidal Waves Park, Community Park, and The Teen Center.

Facilities use by respondents is listed below and depicted in Figure 4.

General Use Park	39.8%
Environmental Education Park or Facility	21.8%
Service Facility	19.6%
Athletic Park or Facility	10.2%
Recreation Center	7.6%
Teen Center	1.0%

Figure 4: Use by Category of Facility



5.5 Assessment of Parks

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their general satisfaction with Oak Island parks. In terms of location, respondents generally considered the department's parks to be convenient with 78.5% indicating that parks were just the right distance away from their residence. 5.5% felt a park was too far away, 10.5% had no opinion, 5.5% did not answer, and no one believed there was a park that was too close.

Most respondents believe that Oak Island parks are usually well maintained and another 28.9% said they were always well maintained. Sometimes well maintained was cited by 4.5% of respondents and never cited 0.4%, 7.7% had no opinion and 5.3% gave no answer. Overall, 82.1% believe the department's parks are well maintained, while only 4.9% expressed negative views.

Respondents also agreed that Oak Island parks were safe and secure with 33.2% selecting always safe and 45.9% selecting usually for a total of 79.1%. Only 3.8% considered the parks safe sometimes and 0.3% said they were never safe. 12.2% of respondents had no opinion and 4.7% did not answer.

When asked whether Oak Island's parks possessed all the features and amenities necessary for their use and enjoyment, the overall favorable rating is 73.3%, of which 53.4% said usually and 20% said always. Sometimes was cited 8.5% and never 1.3% for an overall unfavorable opinion of 9.8%, roughly double the unfavorable percentages for maintenance and safety, 11.7% had no opinion and 5.2% gave no answer.

Overall, the vast majority of respondents believe the department's parks are properly located in the community and are both well maintained and safe. And while a sizable majority also believes the parks have sufficient amenities for their purposes, a higher percentage of respondents believe they do not always have all the amenities they need.

5.6 Assessment of Facilities

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their general satisfaction with the department's facilities, which was defined as including both buildings and non-park service amenities like boat docks. In terms of location, respondents generally considered facilities to be convenient with 77.0% indicating that Oak Island facilities were just the right distance away from their residence, 5.7% felt facilities were too far away, 10.2 % had no opinion, 6.0% did not answer, and 1.1% believed there was a facility that was too close.

Asked about conditions 51.6% believe the Oak Island facilities are usually well maintained and another 28.6% said they were always well maintained. Sometimes well maintained was cited by 2.9% of respondents and never cited 0.2%, 10.0% had no opinion and 6.7% gave no answer. If it is assumed that a citation of usually or always equates with a favorable view of facilities' maintenance, overall 80.2% believe Oak Island parks are well-maintained, while only 3.1% expressed negative views.

Respondents also agreed that Oak Island facilities were safe and secure with 31.9% selecting always safe and 45.5% selecting usually for a total of 77.4%. Only 2.0% considered the parks safe sometimes and 0.2% said they were never safe while 13.3% of respondents had no opinion and 7.1% did not answer.

When asked whether Oak Island facilities possessed all the features and amenities necessary for their use and enjoyment, the overall favorable rating drops to 64.9%, of which 48.3% said usually and 16.6% said always. Sometimes was cited 11.1% and never 1.5% for an overall unfavorable opinion of 12.7% while 14.7% had no opinion and 7.8% gave no answer.

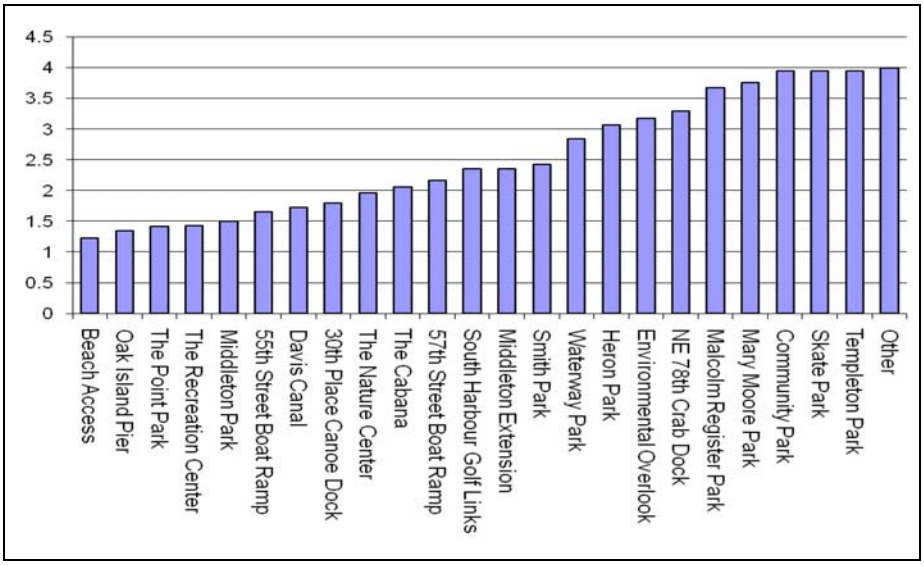
5.7 Assessment of the Value of Parks, Buildings, and Facilities

Respondents were asked to rank those Oak Island parks, buildings, and facilities they considered most valuable, on a 1-5 scale. The survey results are listed below and depicted in Figure 5.

Park, Building, or Facility	1-5 Ranking (1 indicates greatest benefit)
Beach Access	1.23
Oak Island Pier	1.34
The Point Park	1.41
The Recreation Center	1.43

Middleton Park	1.50
55th Street Boat Ramp	1.65
Davis Canal	1.73
30th Place Canoe Dock	1.80
The Nature Center	1.96
The Cabana	2.06
57th Street Boat Ramp	2.16
South Harbour Golf Links	2.36
Middleton Extension	2.36
Smith Park	2.43
Waterway Park	2.84
Heron Park	3.07
Environmental Overlook Park	3.18
NE 78th Crab Dock	3.30
Malcolm Register Park	3.67
Mary Moore Park	3.76
Community Park	3.95
Skate Park	3.95
Templeton Park	3.95
Other[6]	> 4.00

Figure 5: Ranked Value of Parks, Buildings, and Facilities



[6] Other includes parks, buildings, and facilities that accounted for less than 4% of the total. In descending order: Community Park, Templeton Park, Malcolm Register Park, Yaupon Park, The Ocean Education Center, Skate Park, Tidal Waves Park, Community Park, and The Teen Center.

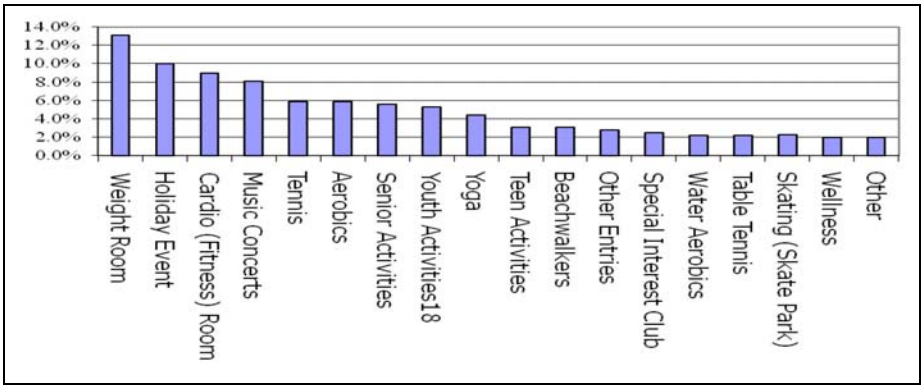
5.8 Participation in Parks & Recreation Department Programming

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their familiarity with and participation in activities programmed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The percentage of those respondents who have visited an Oak Island park is appreciably higher than the percentage of those who have actually participated in one of the Department's programs.

Respondents were asked to identify program activities in which they had participated. The following is a ranking of program participation, based on the percentage of total responses, in descending order. The results are depicted in Figure 6.

Weight Room Use	13.1%
Holiday Event	10.0%
Cardio (Fitness) Room Use	9.0%
Music Concerts	8.1%
Tennis	5.9%
Aerobics	5.9%
Senior Activities	5.6%
Youth Activities	5.3%
Yoga	4.4%
Teen Activities	3.1%
Beach-walkers	3.1%
Special Interest Club	2.5%
Water Aerobics	2.2%
Table Tennis	2.2%
Skating (Skate Park)	2.2%
Wellness	2.0%
Other[7]	> 2.0%

Figure 6: Recreational Programs Participation



[7] Other refers to programs receiving less than 2% of all responses including the following, listed in descending order: Nutri-Lunch, 50+Softball, Kickboxing, Bridge, Disc Golf, Facility Rental, Bingo, Belly Dancing, Soccer, Youth Golf, Dominos, Quilters, Volleyball, Girl's Softball, Flag Football, and Lacrosse.

5.9 Assessment of Parks & Recreation Programming

Respondents were asked for their assessment of Parks and Recreation Department programs in which they had participated. When asked whether the programs offered by the Recreation Department was of interest, respondents said usually 38.1% of the time and always 16.8% while 24.2% found programs that interested them only sometimes, 2.2% said never, 10.9% had no opinion, and 7.8% gave no answer.

Respondents were asked about their ability to find openings in the programs of classes in which they wished to register. A high percentage, 46.8%, had no opinion and 10.0% had no answer while 28.2% said they could usually get into the class or program they wanted and 11.5% said they could always get into it. That left 7.1% who could only sometimes register for a desired program while 2.4% said they could never get into the class or program they desired.

When asked whether or not the registration for classes was simple, 24.2% of all respondents said usually, 21.0% said always, 3.5% said sometimes, and 1.8% said never; 39.3% had no opinion and 10.2% offered no answer.

Respondents generally believed that programs and classes were offered at convenient times of day with 33.9% answering usually, 7.6% indicating always, 13.3% answering sometimes, and 2.2% answering never; 33.7% had no opinion and 9.3% gave no answer.

When given the choice of morning, afternoon, or evening program times, 43.3% of all respondents expressed no preference, 21.3% preferred mornings, 14.8 preferred evenings, 10.8% preferred afternoons, and 9.8% gave no answer.

When asked for a preference on day of the week, 30.8% of all respondents preferred weekday programs, 10.4% preferred weekend programs, 46.1% had no preference, and 12.7% gave no answer.

Respondents were asked whether or not the department's program offerings were well organized: 31.9% said usually, 14.9% said always, 2.7% said sometimes, and 0.6% said never, 38.6% had no opinion and 11.3% gave no answer.

The staff's level of knowledge about the programs they were offering was cited as usually good by 26.6% of all respondents, always by 23.3%, sometimes by 1.3% and never by 0.6%. 37.0% had no opinion and 11.2% gave no answer.

Regarding facilities, 33.3% of all respondents believed that the facilities used for Recreation Department programs were usually adequate, 15.7% believe the facilities are always adequate, 8.7% believe that the Recreation Department's facilities are only sometimes adequate, 1.5% said they are never adequate, 29.5% had no opinion and 11.3% gave no answer.

Rating programs, 37.0% of all respondents believe the programs they have participated in usually meet their expectations, 14.2% believe their expectation have always been met, while 4.9% indicated only sometimes and 1.3% said never, 31.3% had no opinion and 11.3% gave no answer.

For those program that require a user fee, 62.6% of all respondents agreed that fees for programming were about right, 6.4% felt fees were too high, 1.1% thought fees were too low, and 29.9% had no opinion.

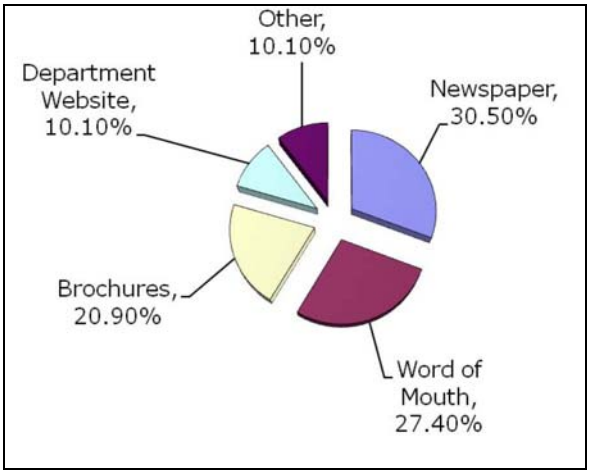
5.10 Program Information

Survey participants were asked to identify the sources of information about the department's programs. Their responses are listed below and depicted in Figure 7.

Source	%
Newspaper	30.5%
Word of Mouth	27.4%
Brochures	20.9%
Department Website	10.1%
Other	10.1%

Many respondents noted in the hand written other response option that both the Recreation Center's electronic sign, and the community's local cable access channel were both important sources of information about the department's programs.

Figure 7: Where Respondents Receive Information about Programs



5.11 Summary of Program Assessment

Respondents are satisfied with the programs offered by the department. For the eight questions requesting an evaluation, favorable responses averaged 46.5% while unfavorable responses averaged 9.8%.

Respondents are satisfied with the time and day of current program offerings, although 15.5% felt that programs were either sometimes or always scheduled at inconvenient times. Respondents expressed a preference for weekday morning classes and programs. Finally, there is a general consensus (62.6%) that the fees charged for programs are in the proper range.

5.12 The Future of the Parks & Recreation Department Parks, Facilities, Buildings, and Programs

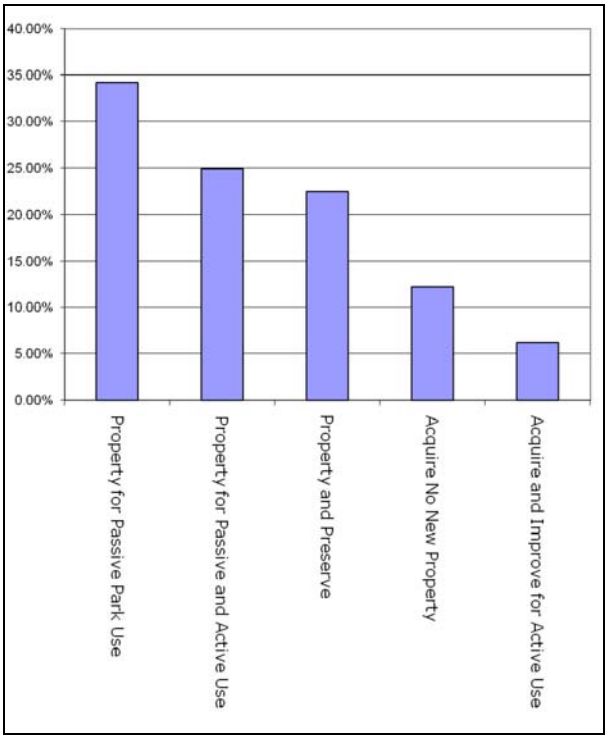
In the final series of questions, respondents were asked to express their views about the future of the Parks and Recreation Department in terms of suggested facility and program improvements as well as options for funding such changes.

5.13 Parks, Facilities, Buildings, and Desired Capital Improvements

Respondents were presented with two questions regarding their preferences for improvements or additions to the Parks and Recreation Department's inventory of parks, buildings, and facilities. The second of the two questions was more general, asking which of a series of property acquisitions they would most favor. The following is a summary of their responses, which is also depicted in Figure 8.

Property Acquisition and Use	%
Acquire Property for Passive Park Use	34.2%
Acquire Property for Passive and Active Use	24.9%
Acquire Property and Preserve	22.5%
Acquire No New Property	12.2%
Acquire and Improve for Active Use	6.2%

Figure 8: Desired Property Acquisition and Use

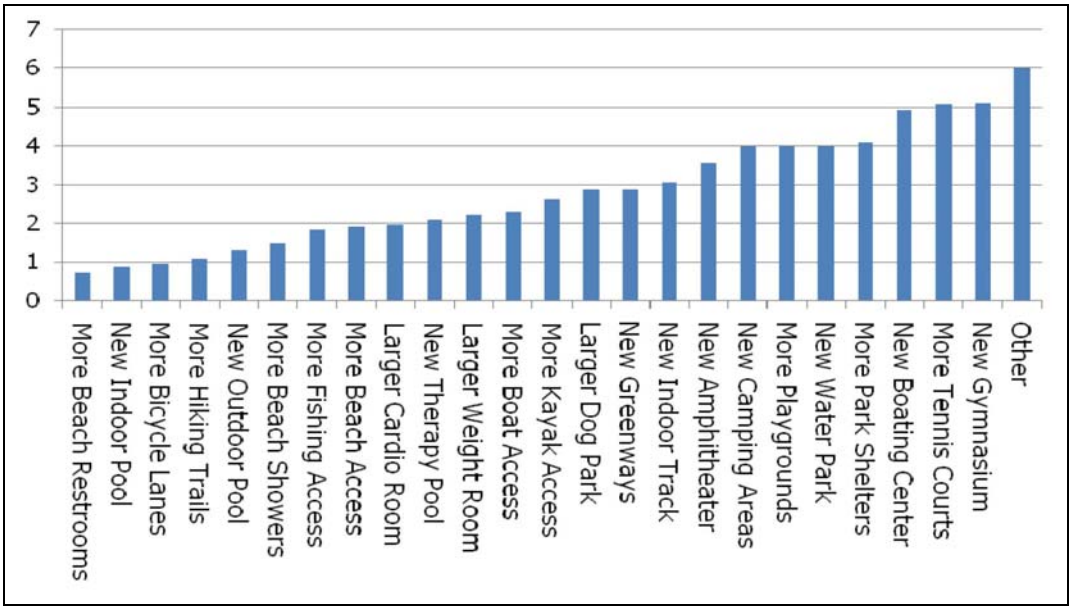


In the first question about desired capital improvements, respondents were given a series of potential improvements or additions to the department's present inventory of parks, buildings, and facilities and asked to rank their preferences on a 1-5 scale, with 1 indicating their most important preference. The following is a summary of their preferences, which is also depicted in Figure 9.

Improvement or Addition	1-5 Ranking (1 indicates highest preference)
More Beach Restrooms	0.73
New Indoor Pool	0.88
More Bicycle Lanes	0.96
More Hiking/Walking Trails	1.07
New Outdoor Pool	1.30
More Beach Showers	1.48
More Fishing Access Points	1.84
More Beach Access Points	1.93
Larger Cardio (Fitness) Room	1.97
New Therapy Pool	2.09
Larger Weight Room	2.23
More Boat Access Points	2.30
More Canoe/Kayak Access Points	2.62
Larger Dog Park	2.89
New Greenways	2.89
New Indoor Track	3.05
New Amphitheater	3.56
New Camping Areas	3.99
More Playgrounds	3.99
New Water Play Spray-Ground	3.99
More Park Shelters	4.09
New Boating/Sailing Center	4.93
More Tennis Courts	5.07
New Gymnasium	5.08
Other[8]	> 6.00

[8] Other refers to responses receiving rankings of 6.0 or more. Listed in descending order: New Outdoor Track, More Park Land, New Art/sculpture Park, New Climbing Wall, More private party Rental Space, More Meeting Space, New Multi-Court Tennis Facility, More Multi-Use Fields, Larger Skate Park, More Soccer Fields, More Softball Fields, and More Baseball Fields.

Figure 9: Capital Improvements



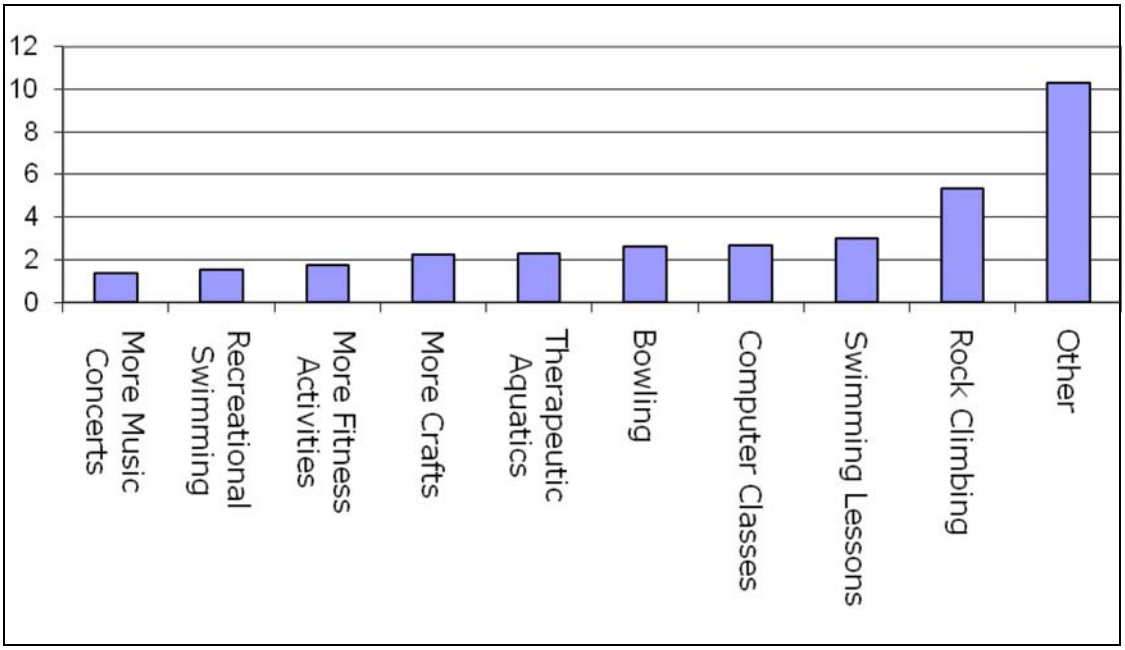
5.14 Desired Program Expansion and Additions

Respondents were asked to rank a proposed list of new or enhanced recreation programs they most favored. The following is a summary of their preferences, based on a scale of 1-5, in descending order, which is also depicted in Figure 10.

New or Enhanced Program/Activity	1-5 Ranking (1 indicates highest preference)
More Music Concerts	1.37
Recreational Swimming	1.55
More Fitness Activities	1.76
More Crafts (Painting, Pottery, etc)	2.21
Therapeutic Aquatics	2.27
Bowling	2.61
Computer Classes	2.65
Swimming Lessons	3.0
Rock Climbing	5.36
Other[9]	> 6.0

[9] Other refers to responses receiving rankings of 6.0 or more. The options in descending order: Martial Arts, Archery, Competitive Swimming, Youth Baseball, Gymnastics, Ultimate Frisbee, Extreme Sports, Adult Baseball, Cheerleading, and Inline Hockey.

Figure 10: New or Enhanced Programs/Activities

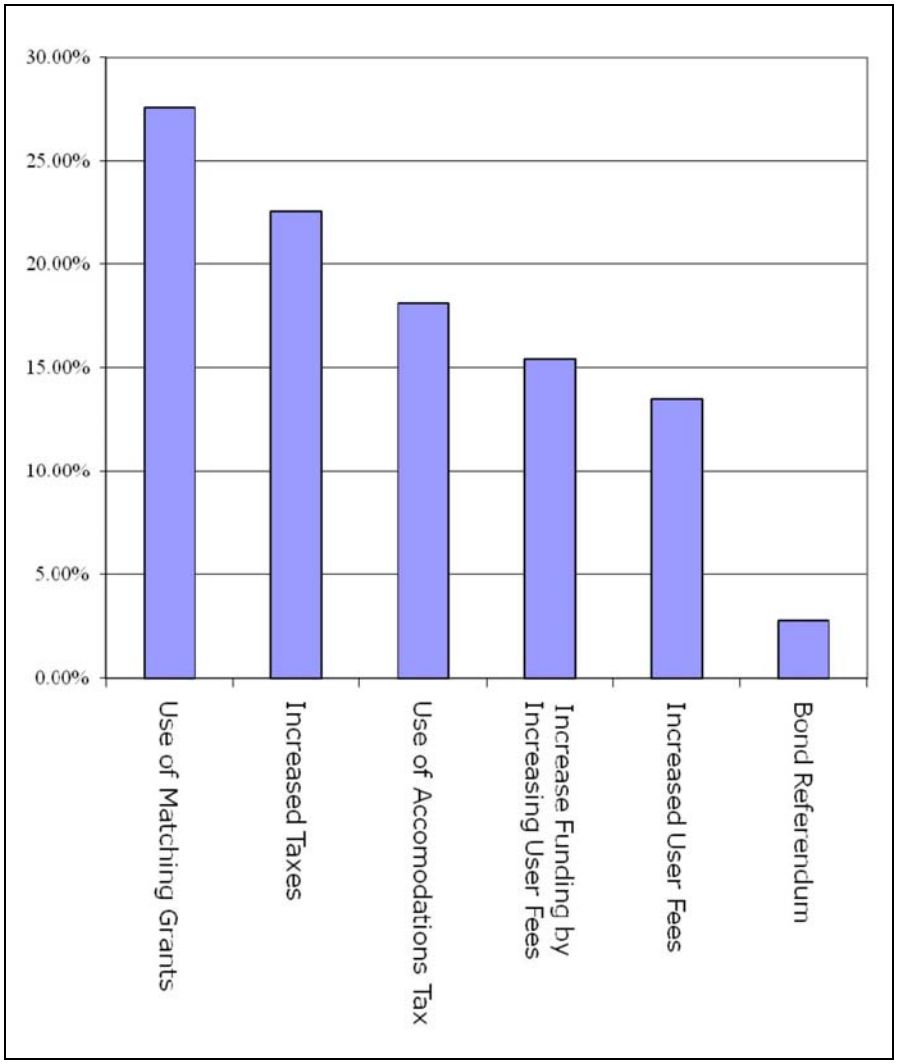


5.15 Funding

Respondents were asked their preference in terms of funding sources for any future improvements or additions to the Parks and Recreation Department's parks, facilities or programming. The following is a summary of the responses, which is also depicted in Figure 11.

Funding Recommendation and Source	%
Increase Funding Through Use of Matching Grants	27.6%
Increase Funding Without Increasing Taxes	22.6%
Increase Funding Through Use of Accommodations Tax	18.1%
Increase Funding by Increasing User Fees	15.4%
Increase Funding Though Bond Referendum	13.5%
Increase Funding by Increasing Taxes	2.8%

Figure 11: Preferred Method of Funding Sources



5.16 Public Meeting

Two public meetings were also used to help gather public input as part of the comprehensive master plan process. The first was held October 22, 2009 and was attended by more than ninety people. Comments ranged from the safety of the recreation center, specifically the weight and fitness rooms, basketball court and parking lot. Additional comments focused on pool, a therapy pool, lazy river, more activities for youth, moving some responsibilities away from parks and recreation, preservation of resources, hiring more staff, increase size of dog park, be aware of the future and the growing population and needs, and dedicate land for recreation in newly annexed area.

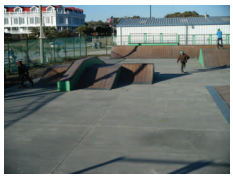
The second public meeting was held February 22, 2010 and it was attended by ninety plus people as well. Much of the meeting was spent reviewing the survey results with the public. The public comments centered on expansion of current facilities, specifically the recreation center. The need for better maintenance including additional staff was mentioned. Recommendation was made to utilize the Brunswick Community College Pool and provide transportation, more so than just the twice a week water aerobics. The public noted the challenging economy but was still behind the expansion of facilities and programs. Comment was received regarding "quality of life", and the need to preserve the beach, canals, creeks, and wildlife.

Input was also solicited from the Parks and Recreation staff. They shared their concerns regarding the lack of space, not just for programming but also for storage and office space. There are concerns about age of the facilities and need for an expanded Recreation Center with a gymnasium. Additional staff comments included safety concerns with lighting, alarm systems, wiring, parking, and overall size of aging facilities. There were also comments on the need for rooms for dedicated use, such as aerobics and instructional classes in a room with proper flooring and acoustics. Staff voiced concern over where the parks and facilities fall in the maintenance priority list, and the use of surrounding areas at parks for maintenance equipment and dumpsters. There is a lack of regulation size fields, in particular softball and soccer. There is a need for renovations and improvement at the majority of the parks and recreation facilities due to use and age.

Maintenance is an issue at the parks and facilities. A full time maintenance staff dedicated to parks and recreation facilities is a top priority. Public Works currently oversees all grounds and facility maintenance. Public Works should be commended for the job they do given limited resources, staffing, and an endless workload. It is felt however, that the parks and facilities should have a set regular routine maintenance and upkeep schedule and that these recreation facilities should be show case facilities.

Full transcripts from both public meetings are included in the appendix as are the notes from the staff meeting.

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department



Chapter 6
Trends

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

6.0 Trends in Recreation

6.1 Overview

This is an overview of trends in recreation both at the state and national level. The trends covered will be ones that are appropriate for our community and its environment and climate. For example, there will be no discussion of the growing popularity of snowboarding.

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department will need to continue to remain flexible and responsive to shifting community needs. The baby boom generation is becoming the senior baby boomers. The average life expectancy has increased to 77.7[10] People are living longer, more independent lives, and are generally healthier, while the needs of the other segments of our community are equally important and will need to be addressed. Adapting programs, parks, and facilities to meet these diverse needs will be a challenge.

Trends in outdoor recreation show a move away from team sports to less organized activities. While team sports remain important they are not growing at the rate of other activities. Individual and family activities such as walking, swimming, biking, kayaking, boating, and fishing, are all on the rise. Our unique coastal location is prime for capitalizing on these active lifestyle choices for both our residents and visitors. Tennis, basketball, skateboarding, and inline skating continue to show steady growth as well.

Trends in indoor recreation show an increasing interest in weightlifting and exercise equipment. One of the most important trends in recreation involves new technologies that make digital fitness logs and online coaching possible. Community recreation centers will need to embrace these new technologies. Fitness equipment will be connected to the Internet and also used to connect to healthcare providers.

Recreation buildings continue to be a central component of the social fabric of many communities and are identified as points of pride and an expression of the value a community places on quality of life. They are the hubs of most programming. In 2009 the topped planned programs[11] nationally were:

1) Environmental education
2) Day camps and summer camps
3) Education
4) Holidays and special events
5) Teen programs
6) Mind-body balance
7) Fitness
8) Adult sports teams
9) Arts and crafts

[10] National Vital Statistics System, 1929 - 2006 Life Expectancy Table
[11] June 2009 *Recreation Management*, A Look at Trends in Parks & Recreation

10) Active older adults

These are just some of the programming space needs that will continue to grow.

Finally, recreation providers are increasingly faced with the challenge of meeting growing needs with declining or stagnant budgets. This trend is one that is not likely to change in the near future. It has helped fuel another trend toward developing partnerships between municipal, county, and state governments. It has also been the catalyst for creative funding strategies. These often include public or private grants, partnerships with corporations, non-profits and allied providers, use agreements, and donations. These ideas will be discussed in greater detail in section 8.0 Recommendations.

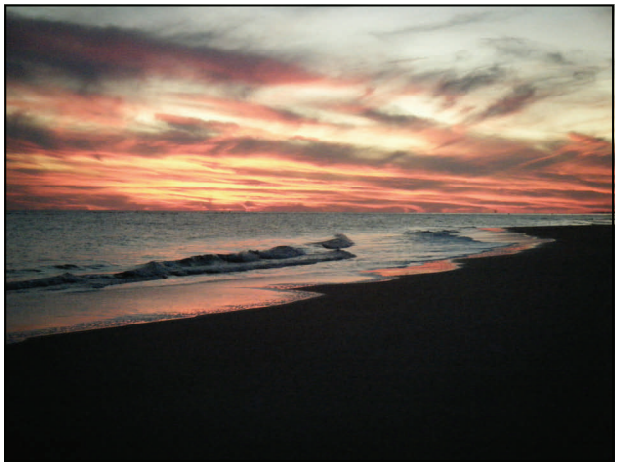
6.2 Trend Analysis Sources

National Sporting Goods Association, 2005 Participation Survey

Recreation Management, State of the Industry Report 2006

System wide Plan for North Carolina State Parks 2009

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department



Chapter 7
Peer Communities

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

7.0 Peer Community Comparisons

The master plan steering committee and project staff identified the peer communities used in this section. Peer communities were contacted to solicit information regarding recreational facilities, services, staffing, and budgets. Communities include: Carolina Beach, NC (population 5,974); Emerald Isle, NC (population 3,855); Morehead City, NC (population 8,691); and Wrightsville Beach, NC (population 2,710). Population statics are taken from the *2008-2009 North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study*. These communities were selected on their perceived comparability to Oak Island based on the fact that they are coastal communities with facilities, staffing, and programming similar to Oak Island (population 8,261). The peer communities also share a similar influx of seasonal visitors.

Table 8: Level of Service Comparison – Programs

Programs	Oak Island	Carolina Beach	Emerald Isle	Morehead City	Wrightsville Beach
Aerobics			•	•	•
Beginner Yoga	•	•		•	
Gentle Yoga	•		•		•
Intermediate Yoga				•	•
Power Yoga		•		•	•
Yoga as Therapy			•		
Karate			•	•	
Belly Dancing	•				
Ballet				•	
Pilates		•			•
Pilates 50/50					•
Tone and Stretch					•
Boot Camp		•	•		•
Shag Lessons					•
Table Tennis	•				
Tai Chi	•				
Tae Kwon Do		•			
Joyful Soul Yoga		•			
Heated Slow Flow				•	
Zumba	•	•	•		
Zumba Gold	•				
Senior Aerobics	•	•			
Youth Dance					
Water Aerobics	•				
Adult Co-ed Soccer	•				
Indoor Soccer			•		
Youth Basketball			•		
Men's League Basketball			•	•	
Basketball		•			•
Disc Golf	•				
Kayaking	•				

Programs	Oak Island	Carolina Beach	Emerald Isle	Morehead City	Wrightsville Beach
Kickball	•				
Volleyball	•	•			
Tennis	•	•			•
Men's Tennis Ladder					•
Women's Tennis Ladder					•
Flag Football	•				•
Adult Co-ed Softball					•
Golf Lessons	•				
Girls Softball	•				
50+ Softball	•				
Surf Lessons	•				
Sports Tournaments	•		•	•	
Halloween Carnival	•	•	•		
Trick or Treating			•		
Roller Derby		•			
Valentine Day Dance	•	•			
Easter Egg Hunt	•	•		•	
Youth Pier Fishing Tournament	•	•			
Tumble Gym Competition		•			
Senior Holiday Parties	•				
Movie Night	•	•	•		•
Races	•			•	
Visits from Easter Bunny	•			•	
July 4th Celebration & Street Dance	•			•	
Senior Games				•	
Concert Series	•			•	•
Healthy Eating Series		•			
North Pole Express	•				
Family Ornament Hunt	•				
Christmas Parade			•		
Santa Calling	•				
Secret Santa Workshop	•				
Santa Claus with Paws	•				
Photos with Santa			•		
Pier Fishing Tournament	•				
Surf Fishing Tournament			•		
Kayak Fishing Tournament	•				
Breakfast With Santa			•		
Art Exhibits	•		•		
Art Show	•				
Christmas Tree Lighting	•				•
Bark in the Park					•
Environmental Festival	•				
Bike Rides	•				
Women Anglers in Training	•				
Senior Trips	•				

Programs	Oak Island	Carolina Beach	Emerald Isle	Morehead City	Wrightsville Beach
Teen Trips	•				
Youth Trips	•				
Teen Youth Thanksgiving	•				
Monthly Teen/Pre-Teen Activities	•				
GED Classes		•			
Painting	•	•			
Guitar Lessons		•			
AA			•		
Art Club	•		•		
Wood Workers Club			•		
Stamp Club			•		
Supper Club			•		
Senior Citizen's Dinner	•				
Knitting Group			•		
Quilters Group	•		•		
Cotillion/Pre-Cotillion					•
Bridge Lessons	•				•
Boating Safety Courses					•
Performance Club					•
Boy Scouts	•				
Girl Scouts	•				
Fishing Club	•				
TOPS	•				
Community Watch	•				
Bingo	•				
Nutri Lunch	•				
Rummikub	•				
Summer Day Camps	•	•	•	•	•
Weight Fitness Memberships	•		•	•	
Gym			•	•	
Game Room	•			•	

7.1 Level of Service Comparison – Programs

The Peer Community Comparisons (Table 8) shows all of the programs offered by all four communities and Oak Island. One hundred and twenty-three different programs are listed. Oak Island offers seventy of the activities, Carolina Beach offers twenty-seven, Emerald Isle offers thirty, Morehead City offers nineteen, and Wrightsville Beach offers twenty-five.

Charts contain information divided into several categories for comparison: instructional fitness programs; athletic programs; special events, holiday programs, annual events; and community service. Community service includes activities, clubs and programs that are held at parks and recreation facilities but are not necessarily coordinated by the departments.

Results from category one, instructional fitness programs, indicate that all departments offer several opportunities for instructional fitness activities, the vast majority of which target the adult

population. Of the twenty-six programs listed, Oak Island offers ten, Carolina Beach offers nine, Emerald Isle offers six, Morehead City offers seven, and Wrightsville Beach offers nine.

Results from the athletic programs shows that all departments offer at least a few types of athletic program opportunities. Of the nineteen programs listed, Oak Island offers twelve, Carolina Beach offers three, Emerald Isle offers four, Morehead City offers two, and Wrightsville Beach offers six.

All departments also offer a variety of different special event type activities. Of the thirty-eight listed, Oak Island offers twenty-five, Carolina Beach offers ten, Emerald Isle offers eight, Morehead City offers six, and Wrightsville Beach offers five.

Thirty community service type programs are noted with Oak Island offering eighteen, Carolina Beach offering four, Emerald Isle offering nine, Morehead City offering one, and Wrightsville Beach offering five. All four peer communities and Oak Island offer summer day camps. Only Oak Island offers monthly youth/teen programs, trips and outings.

Oak Island, Emerald Isle, and Morehead City offer weight and fitness facility memberships. Carolina Beach has an annual Recreation Center membership.

Table 9: Level of Service Comparison – Recreational Facilities

Facilities	Oak Island	Carolina Beach	Emerald Isle	Morehead City	Wrightsville Beach
Water Access (docks)	4			2	1
Water Access (fishing)	3		1	8	
Boat slips				10	
Kayak launch	5		2	1	
Passive Parks on Water	9	1	7	6	1
Tennis courts	6	2	2	4	4
Outdoor basketball courts	2		1	3	1
Playgrounds	2	3	1	4	1
Soccer fields	1	1		7	
Baseball fields	4			1	
Softball fields	1	4		2	1
Football field	1			1	
T-ball field	2			1	
Parks	7	4	8	12	1
Recreation Center/Gymnasium		1	1	1	
Weight/fitness facility	1	1	1	1	
Sand volleyball court	1	1	2		3
Restroom facilities	8	3	8		6
Picnic shelter	1	2	3		1
Recreation Center (no gym)	1				1
Regional Access	1	2	2		4
Bike path	16 miles	4,124 feet	4.4 miles		
Trails	4		1		1

Facilities	Oak Island	Carolina Beach	Emerald Isle	Morehead City	Wrightsville Beach
Outdoor showers	3	3	3		3
Public Access (wooden walkway)	2		59		
Public Access (sand walkway)	66	16	16		43
Public Access (Davis canal)	14				
Public Access (ICWW)	46	14	4		
Public Access (ICWW - stairs)	18				
Cross overs to beach front	4				
Skate Park	1	1			
Dog Park	1	1			
Concession stand	2	1			
Gazebo	6	1	1	1	1
Greenway		45'			
Boat ramp	2		2	1	
Croquet court	1				
Disc golf course	1				
Kayak/canoe trail	24 miles			250 miles	14.1 miles
Fishing	3			4	
Community Resource Center	1				
Nature Center	1				
Ocean Education Center	1				
Fishing Pier	1				
Par 3 golf course	1				
Shuffleboard court	1				
Teen Center	1				

7.2 Level of Service Comparison – Recreational Facilities

The Peer Community Comparisons (Table 9) shows the recreational facilities in each community. There are forty-six different types of facilities listed. Of these, Oak Island has forty-four, Carolina Beach has twenty-one, Emerald Isle has twenty-one, Morehead City has twenty, and Wrightsville Beach has seventeen.

Initial comparisons indicate Oak Island surpasses the other communities in its array of facilities. Facilities such as the Nature and Ocean Education Centers, Teen Center, disc golf course, Pier, and par 3 golf course although unique among these peer communities are certainly found among other communities across the state. Our Community Resource Center is our most unique facility.

Three of the five peer communities have gymnasiums. Oak Island, with the largest population of the peer communities, and Wrightsville Beach, with the smallest population, are the only communities without gymnasiums.

Table 10: Regional Beach Access Comparison

Community	# Regional Beach Accesses per resident
Oak Island	1 per 8,261
Carolina Beach	1 per 2,987
Emerald Isle	1 per 1,928
Wrightsville Beach	1 per 678

Oak Island also lags in regional beach access. Morehead City has no beach access but that does not tell the true story since it is not on the ocean. Atlantic Beach, which is just across the bridge from Morehead City, has four regional beach accesses. The breakdown for the peer communities, excluding Morehead City, for regional beach accesses is in table 10.

With the opening of the second bridge to Oak Island the demand for more regional beach access will be greater than ever. Oak Island will need to look to Brunswick County and the State of North Carolina for assistance to develop more regional beach access to serve not only the residents of Oak Island but also the significant number of visitors from around the county and the state.

Table 11: Level of Service Comparison – Staffing

Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department	Full-Time	Part-Time
Director	1	
Recreation Program Supervisor	1	
Special Programs and Facilities Coordinator	1	
Recreation Athletics Supervisor	1	
Recreation Center Manager	1	
Recreation Program Assistant	1	
Recreation Center Assistant	2	
Community Resource Center Supervisor	1	
Recreation Center Assistant		1
Pro Shop laborer		6
Skate Park laborer		3
Teen Center Assistant		1
Pre School Instructor		1
After School Instructor		1
Community Resource Center Assistant		1
Ocean Education Center laborer		2
Nature Center laborer		2
Athletic Assistant		1
Intern		1
Youth Workers		13
Fitness Instructors		9
Summer Day Camp Counselors		2

Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Director	1	
Assistant Director/Program Superintendent	1	
Parks Maintenance Superintendent	1	
Recreation Leaders	3	
Summer Recreation Leaders		2
Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Director	1	
Program Supervisor	1	
Parks Superintendent	1	
Recreation Coordinator	1	
Custodian	1	
Center Attendant		3
Preschool Specialist		1
Preschool Assistant		1
After School Director		1
Yoga Instructors		4
Karate Instructor		1
Aerobics Instructors		7
Art Instructor		1
SDC Director		1
SDC Counselor		2
SDC Bus Driver		1
Summer Intern		1
Summer Labor		2
Morehead City Parks and Recreation Department	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Director	1	
Assistant Director	1	
Recreation Services Supervisor	1	
Recreation Program Assistant	1	
Recreation Center Worker		1
After School Program Workers		2
Summer Camp Counselors (seasonal)		20
Volunteer Youth Basketball Coaches (seasonal)		20
Wrightsville Beach Planning and Parks Department	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Planning and Parks Director	1	
Planner 1	1	
Building Inspector	1	
Administrative Support Specialist	1	
Parks Maintenance Supervisor	1	
Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor	1	
Parks and Recreation Administrative Support Assistant	1	
Parks Maintenance Crew Leader	1	
Parks Maintenance Crew	1	
After School Director		1
After School Counselors		2
Basketball Officials		5
Basketball Scorekeeper		1

Flag Football Officials		8
Flag Football Field Supervisor		1
Softball Officials		6
Softball Scorekeeper		1
Aerobics/Boot Camp Instructors		4
Yoga/Pilates Instructors		3
Cotillion Instructor		1
Bridge Instructor		1
Art Camp Instructors		2
Tennis Instructor		1
Tennis Camp Assistant		1
Performance Camp Instructor		1
Park Maintenance Temps		2

7.3 Level of Service Comparisons – Staffing

The Peer Community Comparisons, Table 11, shows the staffing levels for Oak Island and the Peer Communities. Oak Island has nine fulltime staff, Carolina Beach has six, Emerald Isle has five, Morehead City has four and Wrightsville Beach has seven, not counting the Planner and Building Inspector. Morehead City has the least full time employees with four.

Table 12: Staffing Comparison

Community	# Full time employees per resident
Oak Island	1 per 918
Carolina Beach	1 per 996
Emerald Isle	1 per 771
Morehead City	1 per 2,173
Wrightsville Beach	1 per 387

As shown in Table 12, Morehead City has one full-time employee for every 2,173 residents. This probably explains the relativity low number of instructional fitness programs, athletic programs, special events, holiday programs, annual events offered by Morehead City. The average for all peer communities is 1 full time employee for every 941 residents. Oak Island averages 1 full time employee for every 918 residents. Even though Oak Island has considerably more programs and facilities, the staffing level remains comparable.

It is difficult to make comparisons with regards to the part-time staff. Oak Island has forty-four part time and seasonal staff, Carolina Beach has two, Emerald Isle has twenty-six, Morehead City has forty-three and Wrightsville Beach has forty-one.

Table 13: Financial Data Comparison

Community	Total General Fund Expense	Total Parks and Recreation Expense	Ratio Parks and Recreation to Total	Property Value	Property Tax Rate
Oak Island	$11,341,185.00	$898,534.00	7.92	4,242,797,313.00	15.5
Carolina Beach	$8,911,063.00	$496,357.00	5.57	2,465,340,066.00	17.5
Emerald Isle	$7,016,691.00	$664,802.00	9.47	4,311,870,254.00	7
Morehead City	$9,041,904.00	$719,211.00	7.95	2,331,477,776.00	22
Wrightsville Beach	$10,101,563.00	$837,289.00	8.29	3,293,091,345.00	8

The data for Oak Island, Carolina Beach, Emerald Isle, and Wrightsville Beach was obtained from fiscal year 2010-11 budgets. The data for Morehead City was obtained from actual expenses for fiscal year 2009 –10.

Table 14: 2007-2008 Audited Operating Per Capita Expenditures by Community

Community	Total Per Capita	Operating Per Capita	Capital Per Capita
Oak Island	$129.10	$95.95	$33.16
Carolina Beach	$209.07	$197.36	$11.71
Emerald Isle	$167.78	$163.41	$4.37
Morehead City	$218.82	$76.77	$142.05
Wrightsville Beach	$178.70	$173.20	$5.50

7.4 Peer Communities Financial Comparisons

The Town of Oak Island and the identified peer communities are very similar in financial capacity and the methods of funding parks and recreation expenses annually. Table 13 and 14 provide basic comparative data for Oak Island and the peer communities. Parks and Recreation expenses are typically funded through the General Fund, although in some instances special revenue or capital projects funds may be used for specific purposes (such as enterprise funds for golf courses or community centers, or capital project funds for specific one-time capital developments such as parks). Additionally, there are variations in how costs for Parks and Recreation services are accounted. For instance, several types of Parks and Recreation expenses may be in shared accounts not identified as direct Parks and Recreation expenses. These include agency insurance (property, liability and workers compensation) and often fringe benefits. The Town of Emerald Isle has a “non-Departmental Department” in which common costs of General Fund departments are reflected including certain fringe benefits. In the case of the other communities, fringe benefits are shown as a direct departmental expense. Additionally, maintenance costs for Parks and Recreation facilities are reflected in a variety of ways ranging from specific costs accounting for facilities (Wrightsville Beach) to a combination of shared and specific expense tracking (Oak Island).

Service level differences are discussed in other parts of this document and they do play a part not only in staffing levels but also in program revenue generation as well as levels of expenditures in

facility maintenance. Likewise, maintenance levels are impacted by whether expenses related to beach access are included as a part of the Recreation and Parks function.

The financial capacity of the Town of Oak Island and the peer communities is shown in a series of graphs and charts included in the Appendix in this document. The information and data displayed in the comparative graphs and charts were obtained from the North Carolina Treasurer's Department and may be accessed online as well. The comparative data shows how Oak Island compares with the peer communities in a number of statistical, quantifiable areas.

7.5 Peer Communities Comparisons Conclusions

The Town of Oak Island compares favorably with the peer communities selected in all of the variables identified. Differences exist in how activities are managed through staffing; in facilities and in how facilities and programs are managed, but the differences reflect local decisions and the relative impact of the parks & recreation operation/function in the community. Broad similarities exist in degree of funding, funding strategies, and funding capability. As this master plan is implemented and proceeds through future years, continual comparisons with the peer communities should be made as an objective evaluation tool.

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 8
Allied Providers

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

8.0 Allied Providers

8.1 Brunswick Community College – Dinah E. Gore Fitness & Aquatics Center

Brunswick Community College
210 College Road
Bolivia, NC 28422

This facility includes:

- 9,000 sq ft gymnasium
- 3,600 sq ft fitness center
- 3,260 sq ft aerobics studio
- 25-yard lap pool
- 1,584 sq ft therapy pool
- aerobics studio
- 3-lane elevated indoor track
- supervised children watch area
- locker rooms
- concessions

Annual, monthly, and daily memberships are available. Classes include: Water Aerobics, Zumba, Boot Camp, Senior Surge, Kickboxing, Pilates, and Yoga

Group Exercise and Water Classes: A new class schedule is offered each month with a variety of classes to improve cardiovascular fitness, strength and flexibility. Water classes are offered in the lap pool and warm water pool. Classes are available at an additional cost to membership.

8.2 Brunswick County Parks & Recreation Department

Building M/ 69 Stamp Act Drive, NE
Mailing address
PO Box 249
Bolivia, NC 28422

The department has a number of parks and community buildings throughout the county. The closest parks to the Town of Oak Island are:

<u>Dutchman Creek Park</u>
4750 Fish Factory Road
Southport, NC 28461

Dutchman Creek Park is located on Fish Factory Road adjacent to South Harbour in the Town of Oak Island and has 30 acres of partially developed park offering opportunities for fishing, picnicking, and a playground. There is a restroom facility at this park.

Smithville District Park
8340 River road SE
Southport, NC 28461

Smithville District Park consists of 23 acres. It has 2 baseball/softball fields (both are 300 ft). It has a 1 football/ soccer field (300 ft.), a soccer field, a concession stand with restrooms, a storage building, a basketball court, 2 tennis courts, 2 picnic shelters, and a playground.

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide range of programs and activities at various locations. These include:

- Adult Athletics (co-ed softball, women's softball, men's softball, etc)
- Youth Athletics (football, cheerleading, softball, baseball, tennis, etc)
- Classes (fitness, dance, tennis, etc)
- Community Events (Little Princess Ball, Concerts on the Coast, etc)
- Special Populations (Special Olympics, club recreation, etc)
- 55+ Programs (golf, Gator Senior Games, day and overnight trips, etc)

There are many opportunities to partner and work with the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

Mission Statement Brunswick County Parks & Recreation Department: *Our goal is to promote quality of life for all by offering safe parks and facilities, creative recreation programs, quality community relations, while fostering a keen stewardship towards the environment.*

8.3 Boiling Spring Lakes Parks & Recreation Department

1 Lees Road
Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 28461

Boiling Spring Lakes offer residents and visitors many recreational opportunities throughout the community. Programmed recreation is primarily based out of the community center which includes a fitness room, large multipurpose room, computer lab, children's library and meeting space. The facility is available for rent as well as for recreational programming for the department. The town also has several neighborhood parks including, but not limited to:

Muse Park
Located just off Hwy 87 behind the Boiling Spring Lakes City Hall. Park includes a recently upgraded playground structure with swings, basketball and tennis courts as well as a picnic shelter with tables.

Alton Lennon Park

Located off East Boiling Spring Road on Alton Lennon Drive. The park includes the city's main access to the city's 275-acre "Big Lake". The Park features a boat ramp and dock, picnic shelter with tables and a bench swing to enjoy the beautiful vistas of the lake.

Spring Lake Park

Located off East Boiling Spring Road on Pine Road. The park is the primary swimming area in the community. Facilities include 2 picnic shelters with tables, bench swings, kayak and canoe launch and the Margaret Davis memorial wildflower garden. Spring Lake Park is one of six designated swimming areas within the community.

Nature Conservancy Nature Trail

Boiling Spring Lakes is home to the 8,000+ acre Nature Conservancy BSL Nature Preserve. Property is owed by the State of North Carolina and managed through the Department of Agriculture through the Plant Conservation Program. The Nature Conservancy manages the preserve and offers residents and visitors an approximately 3-mile nature trail with the trailhead located at the Community Center.

A sample of program offerings through the department includes: After school enrichment program, summer camps, out of school activity days, junior master gardeners program, senior lunches, Friday night socials, senior games & crafts, Celebrate the Lakes concert series, Annual Fire in The Lakes Festival, kayak outings and a variety of nature based programs.

Boiling Spring Lakes now shares a border with the Town of Oak Island, opening the possibility for a greenway or bike route connecting to the two towns.

Mission Statement of The Boiling Spring Lakes Parks & Recreation Department: *The mission of the Boiling Spring Lakes Parks & Recreation Department is to provide and maintain quality parks, a standard of excellence in service, facilities and programs with a continued commitment to the residents of Boiling Spring Lakes. We do this in a joint effort with the residents of Boiling Spring Lakes, other city departments, area agencies, sponsors and organizations. Our goal is to support the needs of the community by offering recreational facilities and year-round programs that encourage fun, promote fellowship, improve wellness and foster educational experiences while providing opportunities for personal growth, economic development and community interaction.*

8.4 Southport Parks & Recreation Department

215 North Atlantic Ave
Southport, NC 28461

Southport has several parks including a waterfront park, which is the site of another publicly owned fishing pier. Southport's recreation facilities include a variety of indoor programming and rental spaces. Stevens Park Little League Complex is under construction. Once complete, it will provide athletic fields for the community.

Southport offers programming in adult exercise including aerobics, body sculpting and core conditioning and power walking. Seniors have opportunities for bowling, exercise, crafts,

luncheons, and other social activities. Youth programming includes tennis, roller-skating, horseback riding, after school care, and swimming.

8.5 Brunswick County Senior Resources, Inc. (BSRI)

45 Courthouse Drive, NE Bldg. E
Bolivia, NC 28422

1513 North Howe Street
Southport, NC 28461

There are two other BSRI Senior Centers located in Brunswick County – one in Leland and one in Shallotte. Southport is the closest one to Oak Island and although other Senior Centers will be built in Brunswick County, Southport is likely to remain the only one close to Oak Island.

BSRI serves residents of Brunswick County who are 60 years of age and older. The services they provide include Nutri-Lunch, Meals on Wheels, medical transportation, general transportation, RX assistance, family caregiver program, information/referral and case management, and Senior Health Insurance Information Program, (SHIP)

Mission Statement Of Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc: *Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc. (BSRI) is a voluntary nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the well-being and enhance the quality of life for all senior adults of Brunswick County. It advocates for programs and delivers services encouraging and sustaining independence and continued participation in the community.*

8.6 Southport Senior Center

1513 North Howe Street
Southport, NC
Operating Hours 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday

This center offers a large number of classes in crafts with everything from watercolor painting to basket weaving and fused glass. They offer extensive exercise and wellness classes, dance classes and social activities.

8.7 Ruth T. Bigham Oak Island Senior Center

5918 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465

The Oak Island Senior Center is a non-profit organization that serves the recreational, social, intellectual and physical needs of senior citizens (50+) who live in the Smithville Township. The Oak Island Senior Citizens Organization was formed in 1978.

Services:

- Publish a monthly newsletter to notify the seniors of pertinent information about classes,

health issues, information disseminated from the police regarding scams and safety issues and points of community interest.

- Offer craft classes at Ocean Trail Nursing Home and Brunswick Cove Nursing Home. Small gifts are sent for bingo games. A giving tree with gifts for the needy is given at Christmas.
- Monthly dinners and special event activities including speakers and entertainment. The Center features educational speakers, i.e. a pharmacist informing citizens on the uses and safety precautions of most commonly used over-the-counter and prescription drugs.
- Sunshine and Angel Lift coordinates transportation for dinners and classes.
- Field trips to local area amusements.
- Caring Committee provides small home repairs for those in need.
- Arts & Crafts classes are offered at the center Monday through Friday. These classes are watercolor painting, oil painting, sewing, knitting, and crocheting, computer skills, basket weaving, decorative painting and chair caning.
- Income taxes preparation services are provided at no cost to those who cannot afford such specialized help.

This list of services is taken from the web site OakIslandseniorcraftstore.org.

8.8 Community in Schools (CIS) of Brunswick County

PO Box 10087
Southport, NC 28461

CIS is a community-based organization helping kids succeed in school and prepare for life. Founded in the 1970's CIS core service areas are:

- After School Programs
- Family Resource Centers
- Adopt a School/Volunteer Program
- Parenting Education Program
- Dropout Prevention Program
- Teen Court and Peer Court

CIS hosts a wide variety of family oriented events and fundraisers throughout the year such as the Little Princess Ball, Big Toy Day, and A Taste of Brunswick County.

Mission Statement of Communities In Schools Of Brunswick County: *The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS believes every child deserves a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, a chance to give back to the community, and a healthy start.*

8.9 North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell

A Coastal Retreat and Conference Center
100 Caswell Beach Rd
Oak Island, NC 28465

Fort Caswell is a Christian retreat owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. It has a variety of recreational facilities and activities available for guests. Year-round recreational opportunities include an indoor gym, outdoor volleyball, softball field, horseshoes, shuffleboard, tennis court, fishing pier, surf fishing, mini-golf (18-hole) and paved streets for walking or rollerblading.

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department utilizes the Fort Caswell swimming pool for its summer day camp program. It is an outdoor pool that is only available in the summer.

8.10 Dosher Memorial Hospital

924 North Howe Street
Southport NC, 28461

Dosher Hospital is a public hospital dedicated to meeting the needs of the community. Some of the services it offers are:

- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Cardiopulmonary and Respiratory Therapy
- Diabetes Education
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Services
- Laboratory Services
- Lymph edema Management
- Nutritional Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Skilled Nursing Center
- Sleep Disorder Laboratory
- Social Services
- Speech Therapy
- Surgical Services & Procedures

8.11 Oak Island Presbyterian Church

1503 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465

Little Lambs Preschool is a ministry of Oak Island Presbyterian Church for children one year through four years old (pre-kindergarten). Each class has two qualified teachers leading the children utilizing a Christian curriculum. The two year old, three year old and four year old classes participate in a weekly chapel service.

Classes meet as follows:

- 1 year old Moms Morning Out – Friday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- 2 year old class – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 11: 30 a.m.
- 3 year old class – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 - noon
- 4 year old class – Monday through Friday, 9:00 – noon
- 1 year old Moms Morning Out – registration $ 40.00; tuition $ 45.00
- 2 year old class – registration $ 75.00; tuition $ 110.00
- 3 year old class – registration $ 75.00; tuition $ 125.00
- 4 year old class – registration $ 75.00; tuition $ 175.00

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 9
Recommendations

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

9.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are a compilation of the input from all sources. Of the twenty recommendations proposed for the 10-year period covered by the comprehensive master plan three are in the forefront:

- Construction of a Recreation Complex (gymnasium, walking track, etc.). Replacement and or/modernization of the existing Recreation Center is a top priority including the addition of a gymnasium and other flexible programming space. Current facility is inadequate for fitness training, lacks suitable flex space, and has inadequate administrative areas among other needs. The Recreation Center has been a focal point of the community and improvements and expansion are necessary to insure its continued standing in the community.
- Recognize Park Maintenance as a priority. Parks and recreation facility maintenance is a shared responsibility between Parks & Recreation and Public Works functions. In tight budget times maintenance often is reduced, extended or delayed for cost containment reasons. The impact may be negative on overall operations and create a backlog of maintenance needs. Management of the maintenance function should account for changes in facility maintenance levels that affect adversely on services and public opinion.
- Partner with other agencies in the planning, construction and operation of an aquatic facility. A major need expressed during the master planning process involved a local aquatics facility for swimming and for medical rehabilitation. While the facility may be located locally, its functions would serve a regional population. Oak Island should pursue efforts at attracting multiple partners to meet this need. The Town realizes that it is not feasible to undertake such an endeavor but would be a supportive partner.

These are the remaining recommendations:

- Increase recreation and social programs for youth, teens, adults and seniors. Programming to meet recreational and social needs is a cornerstone of the Oak Island community. Efforts should be continued to meet the growing community needs including expansion of services through the Community Resource Center.
- Expand indoor and outdoor facilities to meet community growth within the 10-year planning period. The Plan recognizes that there are current limitations in programming both indoor and outdoor programs (athletics and classes). Facilities should be expanded to meet community needs based on growth on both the island and mainland segments of the community.
- Provide new community events in partnership with others for celebration and socialization. The Parks and Recreation Department partners with a variety of community organizations. Efforts should continue in reaching out to others in providing events that highlight and improve the community's quality of life.
- Utilize park resources as assets to generate new revenue. Efforts should be expanded in the area of special programs which could generate an income stream to assist in meeting overall departmental expenses.
- Construct Phase III of Bill Smith Park. Phase III consists of soccer fields and support facilities. Phase III is eligible for grant funding through the PARTF program.

- Incorporate "Sustainable Design Elements" into current and future facilities. In design of new facilities and up-fit of existing facilities, energy efficiency and other conservation principles should be used wherever practical to reduce long-term operating expenses.
- Update technology on a scheduled, routine basis to enable better service. Increased use of technology offers an opportunity to do more efficiently. Computers and other information technology tools should be used as much as possible. A replacement budget should be established for technology upgrades and maintenance
- Increase staffing as new facilities and program demands indicate. Efficient operation of facilities and programs is dependent upon adequate staffing. As facilities and programs are expanded, sufficient funding for staffing requirements should be provided.
- Develop a non-profit group to assist with fundraising for Recreation needs. Establishment of a non-profit support group to assist in fundraising for recreation facilities and programming would augment the taxpayer funded portions of the Recreation and Parks service. The Recreation Advisory Board would remain as a policy advisor to Council and staff.
- Bring existing facilities up to current Americans with Disabilities Act standards within the 10-year planning period. Efforts are being made to make all Town facilities compliant with ADA standards. Recreation facilities should be completely ADA-accessible by the end of the planning period.
- Acquire land and construct a Regional access serving the West Beach area. Recreation demand through beach access is expected to increase in demand in the planning period. Acquisition of land should begin while land prices are low and be banked until the need for the facility exists.
- Incorporate playground equipment into existing and future major parks. Playground equipment should be planned for additions to some existing parks (Bill Smith Park) and planned for any major park development in the community.
- Add restrooms to selected accesses along the beach strand. Demand for additional areas such as the Cabana is expected to grow during the planning period and should be incorporated at certain strategic locations on the beach strand.
- Implement the Town's Bicycle Transportation Plan where practical within the 10-year planning period. The Town's Bicycle Plan should be used in conjunction with this planning document as the Town considers capital investments throughout the community.
- Coordinate with Brunswick County and neighboring municipalities in planning and developing trails, greenways and blueways. Participation in cooperative efforts among area local governments is a proven strategy in obtaining the passive development of sensitive areas. A regional approach may have a beneficial impact on funding and sharing of resources.
- Develop a menu of funding options for implementation of the Master Plan recommendations. Funding options should include federal, state, local and foundation grant sources; Department-generated revenue; support group fundraising; flexible financing including use of Capital Reserve funding; funding from other partner agency sources including area local governments; local revenue sources or a combination of all of the above.

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department

Chapter 10
Appendix

Mission Statement

The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the recreational, cultural and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities.

Appendix 1: Parks & Recreation Survey

Oak Island Parks & Recreation Citizen Survey

October, 2009

Dear Fellow Oak Island Resident/Property Owner,

The Town of Oak Island is preparing a 10-year plan for the future of its recreation programs, parks, recreational facilities, and recreational buildings in order to meet the needs of our citizens. Your input is very important to the success of this effort. Respectfully, you are asked to complete the following survey and return it with your utility bill payment. If you pay your utility bill online or by direct draft, please drop off the survey or mail it to the Oak Island Town Hall. You are also invited to attend public meetings about the 10-year plan, which will be scheduled for later this Fall. Many thanks.

Completed surveys will be accepted until November 15, 2009

1. How often do you or a family member visit an Oak Island park, recreational facility, or recreational building ?

( ) Never ( ) 3-5 times a yr. ( ) Once a month
( ) Once a week ( ) More than once/week

2. Have you or a family member participated in any of the following activities at an Oak Island park, recreational facility or recreational building? Please check all that apply.

Recreational Programs

( ) Youth Activities
( ) Teen Activities
( ) Aerobics/Pilates Class
( ) Beachwalkers
( ) Kickboxing
( ) Yoga
( ) Table Tennis
( ) Dominoes
( ) Quilters
( ) Making Tracks
( ) Music Concerts
( ) Canoe/Kayak Rental
( ) 50+ Softball
( ) Girls Softball
( ) Tennis
( ) Youth Golf
( ) Weight Room
( ) Adult Volleyball
( ) Senior Activities
( ) Holiday Activities
( ) Wellness Classes/Seminar
( ) Belly Dancing
( ) Water Aerobics
( ) Skating (Skate Park)
( ) Bingo/Scrabble
( ) Bridge
( ) Nutri-lunch
( ) Summer Day Camp
( ) Special Interest Club
( ) Adult Flag Football
( ) Adult Soccer
( ) Lacrosse
( ) In-Line Hockey (No longer offered)
( ) Golf Tournament
( ) Cardio Room
( ) Other: _____

General Recreation Activities

( ) Hiking
( ) Walking
( ) Fishing
( ) Bicycling
( ) Swimming
( ) Bocce/Shuffleboard
( ) Croquet
( ) Canoeing/Kayaking
( ) Sailing/Boating
( ) Go to the Beach
( ) Jogging/Running
( ) Picnic in the Park
( ) Visit Playground
( ) Off Road Biking
( ) Facility Rental
( ) Tennis
( ) Disc Golf
( ) Snorkel/Scuba
( ) Pet Exercise
( ) Other _____

3. Have you or a family member visited an Oak Island park, recreational facility, or recreational building in the past year? Please check all that apply.

__ Canoe/Kayak Access
30th Place West & 39th Place West
__ Boat Ramp
NE 53th Street at Yacht Drive
__ Boat Ramp
57th Place West
__ NE 78th Crab Dock
NE 78th Street @ East Yacht Drive
__ Beach Access Points
Various locations
__ Cabana
Beach Drive at SE 46th Street
__ Commissioner's Park
McGlamery at Ocean Drive
__ Community Resource Center
4700 East Oak Island Drive
__ Davis Canal Crossover, SE 9th
SE 9th Street
__ Environmental Overlook Trail
SE 31st Street
__ Heron Lookout
SE 40th Street at Davis Creek
__ Malcolm Register Park
NE 52nd Street at the waterway
__ May Moore Park
Barbee Blvd. at Elizabeth Drive
__ Middleton Park
Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street
__ Middleton Park Extension/Tennis Courts
Dolphin at SE 46th Street
__ Nature Center
NE 52nd Street at Yacht Drive
__ Oak Island Pier
705 Ocean Drive
__ Ocean Education Center
SE 49th Street
__ The Point
West end of Beach Drive
__ Recreation Center
3003 East Oak Island Drive
__ Scenic Trail/Davis Canal
SE 19th Street at Davis Creek
__ Skate Park
4902 East Beach
__ Smith Park
4410 Fish Factory Road
__ South Harbour Golf Links
4188 Vanessa Drive
__ Teen Center
Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street
__ Templeton Park
NE 41st Street at Oak Island Drive
__ Tidalwaves Canoe Park
SE 31st Street at Davis Creek
__ Waterway Park
NE 15th Street at Yacht Drive
__ Yaupon Park
Barbee Blvd. at Ocean Drive

4. How do you find out about Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department programs and activities? Please check all that apply.

( ) Parks & Recreation Brochures ( ) Newspaper
( ) Parks & Recreation Web Site ( ) Word of Mouth
( ) Other _____

5. For each statement listed below, please check the term that best describes your opinion of Oak Island Parks & Recreation programs and activities.

a. My family and I can find programs that interest us.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

b. My family and I can get into the class we want.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

c. Registering for programs is convenient and simple.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

d. Programs are offered at a convenient time and day.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

e. Indicate your preference for class times.
( ) Morning ( ) Afternoon ( ) Evening ( ) No preference

f. Indicate your preference for class meeting days.
( ) Weekdays ( ) Weekends ( ) No preference

g. Programs are well organized.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

h. Program staff is knowledgeable about the activity.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

i. The facilities, buildings, and equipment for programs are adequate.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

j. The programs meet our expectations.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

k. The fees charged for programs are:
( ) Too low ( ) About right ( ) Too high

6. Of the following programs and activities, rank up to five from each list that you consider most valuable for you and your family. Write "1" for your favorite, "2" for your next favorite, and so on, through the number "5."

Recreational Programs (Rank your top 5 in this list)

__ Youth Activities
__ Teen Activities
__ Aerobics/Pilates Class
__ Beachwalkers
__ Kickboxing
__ Yoga
__ Table Tennis
__ Dominoes
__ Quilters
__ Making Tracks
__ Tunes at Twilight
__ Canoe/Kayak Rental
__ 50+ Softball
__ Girls Softball
__ Tennis
__ Youth Golf
__ Weight Room
__ Other: _____
__ Senior Activities
__ Holiday Activities
__ Wellness Classes/Seminar
__ Belly Dancing
__ Water Aerobics
__ Skating (Skate Park)
__ Bingo/Scrabble
__ Bridge
__ Nutri-lunch
__ Summer Day Camp
__ Special Interest Club
__ Adult Flag Football
__ Adult Soccer
__ Lacrosse
__ In-Line Hockey (No longer offered)
__ Golf Tournament
__ Cardio Room

General Recreation Activities (Rank your top 5 in this list)

__ Hiking
__ Walking
__ Fishing
__ Bicycling
__ Swimming
__ Bocce/Shuffleboard
__ Croquet
__ Canoeing/Kayaking
__ Sailing/Boating
__ Go to the Beach
__ Jogging/Running
__ Picnic in the Park
__ Visit Playground
__ Off Road Biking
__ Facility Rental
__ Tennis
__ Disc Golf
__ Snorkel/Scuba
__ Pet Exercise
__ Other _____

7. For each statement below, pick the term that best describes your opinion of Oak Island parks, recreational facilities, and recreational buildings.

a. The parks are convenient to where I live.
( ) Too far ( ) Just right ( ) Too close ( ) No opinion

b. The parks are well maintained.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

c. The parks are safe and secure.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

d. The parks have the features needed for recreational activities my family and I enjoy.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

Question # 7 is continued on the back side of this page

Question #7 continued from previous page

e. Oak Island recreational facilities and buildings are convenient to where I live.
( ) Too far ( ) Just right ( ) Too close ( ) No opinion

f. Oak Island recreational facilities and buildings are well maintained.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

g. Oak Island recreational facilities and buildings are safe and secure.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

h. Oak Island recreational facilities and buildings have the features needed for activities my family and I enjoy.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

i. Oak Island facilities and recreational buildings are large enough for recreational activities my family and I enjoy.
( ) Never ( ) Sometimes ( ) Usually ( ) Always ( ) No opinion

8. Of the following parks, recreational facilities, and recreational buildings, rank up to five that you consider most valuable for you and your family. Write "1" for your favorite, "2" for your next favorite, and so on, through the number "5."

__ Canoe/Kayak Access *30th Place West & 39th Place West*
__ Boat Ramp *NE 55th Street at Yacht Drive*
__ Boat Ramp *57th Place West*
__ NE 78th Crab Dock *NE 78th Street @ East Yacht Drive*
__ Beach Access Points *Various locations*
__ Cabana *Beach Drive at SE 46th Street*
__ Commissioner's Park *McGlamery at Ocean Drive*
__ Community Resource Center *4700 East Oak Island Drive*
__ Davis Canal Crossover, SE 9th *SE 9th Street*
__ Environmental Overlook Trail *SE 31st Street*
__ Heron Lookout *SE 40th Street at Davis Creek*
__ Malcolm Register Park *NE 52nd Street at the waterway*
__ May Moore Park *Barbee Blvd. at Elizabeth Drive*
__ Middleton Park *Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street*
__ Middleton Park Extension/Tennis Courts *Dolphin at SE 46th Street*
__ Nature Center *NE 52nd Street at Yacht Drive*
__ Oak Island Pier *705 Ocean Drive*
__ Ocean Education Center *SE 49th Street*
__ The Point *West end of Beach Drive*
__ Recreation Center *3003 East Oak Island Drive*
__ Scenic Trail/Davis Canal *SE 19th Street at Davis Creek*
__ Skate Park *4902 East Beach*
__ Smith Park *4410 Fish Factory Road*
__ South Harbour Golf Links *4188 Vanessa Drive*
__ Teen Center *Oak Island Drive at SE 48th Street*
__ Templeton Park *NE 41st Street at Oak Island Drive*
__ Tidalwaves Park *SE 31st Street at Davis Creek*
__ Waterway Park *NE 15th Street at Yacht Drive*
__ Yaupon Park *Barbee Blvd. at Ocean Drive*

9. If you could identify one improvement for the Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department programs, parks, recreational facilities, or recreational buildings, it would be:
_____

10. Of the following new recreational activities, rank up to five that you would like to see provided by the Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department in the future? Write "1" for your favorite, "2" for your next favorite, and so on, through the number "5."

__ Rock Climbing
__ More Fitness Activities
__ Youth Baseball
__ Inline Hockey
__ Archery
__ Recreational Swimming
__ Therapeutic Aquatics
__ Computer Classes
__ More Music Concerts
__ Cheerleading
__ More Arts/Crafts
__ Gymnastics
__ Adult Baseball
__ Ultimate (Frisbee)
__ Bowling
__ Competitive Swimming
__ Swimming Lessons
__ Martial Arts
__ Extreme Sports
__ Other: _____

11. Of the following park, recreational facility, or recreational building amenities, rank up to five that you would like to see provided in the future by the Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department? Write "1" for your favorite, "2" for your next favorite and so on, through the number "5."

__ More Playgrounds
__ More Soccer Fields
__ More Baseball Fields
__ More Softball Fields
__ More Multi-Use Fields
__ More Tennis Courts
__ More Walking, Hiking Trails
__ More Bicycle Lanes
__ Larger Dog Park
__ Larger Skate Park
__ More Park Shelters
__ More Meeting Space
__ More Private Party Rental Space
__ Larger Cardio Room
__ Larger Weight Training Room
__ More Beach Access Parking
__ More Fishing Access Areas
__ More Beach Showers
__ More Beach Rest Rooms
__ More Parkland
__ More Boating Access
__ More Canoe/Kayak Access
__ New Greenways
__ New Sailing/Boating Center
__ New Indoor Swimming Pool
__ New Outdoor Swimming Pool
__ New Therapy Pool
__ New Water Play Spraygrounds
__ New Multi-Court Tennis Center
__ New Art/Sculpture Park
__ New Gymnasium
__ New Indoor Track
__ New Climbing Wall
__ New Amphitheater
__ New Outdoor Running Track
__ New Camping Areas
__ Other: _____

12. In the future, Oak Island may consider a variety of options for acquiring and developing open space for parks and recreation purposes. From the following list, please check open space options that you or members of your household would support the most. Check all that apply.

( ) Open space should be acquired and left undeveloped.
( ) Open space should be acquired and improved for passive usage, i.e. trails, picnicking, shelters.
( ) Open space should be acquired and improved for active usage, i.e. baseball, soccer, football, etc.
( ) Open space should be acquired and improved for both passive (trails, picnicking) and active (baseball, soccer, football) usages.
( ) No new open space should be acquired.

13. The following are some benefits that you and your household may receive from recreational programs, parks, recreational facilities, and recreational buildings. Rank up to five of the following potential benefits that are most important to you and your family? Write "1" for the most important, "2" for your next most important, and so on, through the number "5."

__ Improves physical health and fitness
__ Helps reduce crime
__ Makes Oak Island a more desirable place to live
__ Preserves open space and the environment
__ Increases property values in surrounding areas
__ Improves mental health and reduces stress
__ Increases opportunities for people of different cultures to interact
__ Helps attract new residents and businesses
__ Protects historical attributes of Oak Island
__ Promotes tourism to Oak Island

14. Of the following uses of resources, rank up to five that you consider most important for you and your family. Write "1" for your favorite, "2" for your next favorite, and so on, through the number "5."

__ Improvements/maintenance of existing Oak Island parks
__ Acquisition of new parkland and open space
__ Development of new trails and pathways, i.e. walking, hiking and biking trails, etc.
__ Development of new recreation facilities, i.e. athletic fields, picnic areas, recreational buildings, historic areas, etc.
__ Development of new water access recreation, i.e. boating, beaches, fishing areas, etc.

15. In order to fund improvements to the Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department programs, recreational facilities, and recreational buildings, which of the following would you favor? Check all that apply.

( ) Increase in user fees
( ) Matching grants
( ) Bond referendum to support capital improvements
( ) Increase in Oak Island funding without tax increase
( ) Increase in Oak Island funding with increase in property tax
( ) Increase in Oak Island funding from Accommodations Tax (non-beach portion)

16. How long have you been a resident or property owner of Oak Island?

( ) 5 yrs. or less ( ) 6-15 yrs. ( ) 16-25 yrs. ( ) More than 25 yrs.

17. Where do you live or own property in Oak Island? Please check all that apply.

( ) Mainland ( ) Island, West of Middleton
( ) Yaupon ( ) Island, East of Middleton to 79th

18. Are you a year-round resident? ( ) Yes ( ) No

19. How would you best describe your household?

( ) Couple, No Children
( ) Couple with Children
( ) Single, No Children
( ) Retired, Single or Couple
( ) Single Parent with Children
( ) Unrelated Adults Sharing Home

20. Please include any additional suggestions or comments you have that are not addressed by this survey.
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

If mailing or dropping off this survey, please use the following address:
Oak Island Town Hall
4601 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, North Carolina 28465

Completed surveys will be accepted until November 15, 2009

For more information, please contact:
Ms. Kellie Beeson
Director, Oak Island Parks & Recreation Department
910-278-5518.
kbeeson@ci.oak-island.nc.us

Appendix 2: Parks & Recreation Survey: Written Comments

Oak Island Parks and Recreation Survey

Written Comment Record

Question #2. Activities you or a family member have participated in that were no on the survey?

#	*Activity*	*#*	*Activity*	*#*	*Activity*
6	*Golf*	3	Turtle Nest parent		Music in park
3	Art shows	1	Volunteer	4	Basketball
1	Bridge	1	Sea Oat planting		Crabbing
1	Deep Sea Fishing Day Trip	1	Beach Access clean up		Dancing
2	Movie night 1		Dog Park		Croquet
2	2 Fishing	2	Weight training		Christmas home tour
1	Senior fishing	2	Plant sale		

Question #4. How do you find out about Oak Island Parks &Recreation programs?

#	*Source*
5	Recreation Center Staff
25	Recreation Center Sign
4	Town News Letter
1	Senior Center
12	Channel 8
1	Web Site
1	State Port Pilot

Question #5. Opinion of Oak Island Parks programs & activities?

Users of services should fully pay for use
Prefer class times after 4pm
No opinion
Golf too high
5 - 10 yr olds need to be allowed access to teen center w/parent or grandparent

Question #6Rank up to five from the list that you consider most valuable 1 being your favorite. These were not printed choices and were written in

Ranked 3rd:Bicycling
Unranked: Fishing pier
Unranked: Golf – 2 times
Unranked: Meeting space for environmental/advocacy groups
Unranked: Activities for the disabled, i.e. book club
Unranked: More canoe/boat access
Unranked: Concerts in park
Unranked: tree planting
Ranked 1: Woodworking shop properly equipped with tools, not band saws
Ranked 3: Senior fishing trips
Ranked 5: Golf - 4times
Ranked 1; Racquetball
Ranked 1: Sailing
Ranked 1weight training
Unranked fishing, - 2 times
Ranked 1 dancing
Ranked 5 Zumba
Ranked 3 turtle protection – 5 times
Ranked 1 golf – 3 times
Ranked 3 religious acitivities

Ranked 2 Adult Volleyball
Unranked: Kickboxing
Unranked: Dominoes
Unranked: Making Tracks
Unranked: Youth Golf
Unranked: Belly Dancing
Unranked: Skate Park
Unranked: Bridge
Unranked: Special Interest Club
Unranked: Adult Flag Football
Unranked: Adult Soccer
Unranked: Lacrosse
Unranked: In-Line Hockey
Ranked 5th: 4th of July; Easter activities, etc…
Unranked: Walking on the pier.
Ranked 1st: Weight/cardio room.
Ranked 5th: Basketball court.
Ranked 1st & 2nd: South Harbour par 3
Unranked: Art
Ranked 3rd: Summer movies.
Ranked 5th & 3rd: Bocce Ball
Unranked: Activities for grandchildren.
Ranked 3rd:Bicycling
Unranked: Fishing pier
Unranked: Meeting space for environmental/advocacy groups
Unranked: Activities for the disabled, i.e. book club
Unranked: More canoe/boat access
Ranked 1st: Lap swimming 1 additional comment
Ranked 1st: Gym at rec center
Ranked 5th: Motorcycle rides
Unranked: Dog programs/parks
Unranked: Fishing seminars
With grandchildren
Ranked 1st: Sidewalk walkers-for people who are unable to walk on beach sand, ladies group, safety in nos.
Ranked 1st: Jogging/running and Ranked 3rd: bicycling

Question #9. If you could Identify one improvement for the Oak island arks & Recreation Department programs , recreational facilities or recreational buildings it would be:

More toddler activities
Swimming pools:
- Provide outdoor – 2 times
- Provide indoor – 27 times
- Provide unspecified pool - 31 times

Provide new or expand Recreation Center – 22 times
Bigger weight room – 13 times
Bigger cardio room – 7 times
More and larger Boat Ramps – 13 times
More activities for teens – 7 times
Indoor track -2 times
Better maintenance (landscaping) tennis courts & other parks – 2 times
Maintenance of existing shelters and walkways – 3 times
More kayak access points/floating docks 1,
More fitness classes in morning hours
Play equipment in Middleton Park needs repair
Maintain Dog Park better will not return due to sand spurs, fingers bleeding and had to carry dogs.
Parks need better landscaping, attractive lighting, trash pick-up

More water aerobics – 2 times
Turn swing to face ocean at Commissioner's Park
Dredge Boat Ramp at 55th Street
Day care for 1 year olds
Do a better job getting information to non-residents who own homes but do not know how
Improve Parks
Resurface tennis courts and maintain nets
Better tennis facilities
Improved and more tennis
More tennis courts
Keep existing equipment in GOOD working order
Do cost analysis and charge accordingly
Make it easier to prove residency for part time residents like an ID card.
Repair boat ramps
Seminars/classes on healthy aging or nutrition/health for all ages
Golf lessons/golf driving range
More workout machines
More yoga
More Pilates
Outdoor fitness trail @ Bill Smith
Competitive horseshoes
More equipment at Middleton
More showers at beach
Cover or roof for deck @ Cabana
Showers at EACH beach access
Upgrade Skate Park
Gymnasium
More openings for elementary level summer camps
More activities for seniors 1
More scenic walkways
Provide parking at Templeton Park and others are useless unless you can walk to them
Improve and maintain 57th Place boat ramp
Working games at Teen Center
Place to dance
Yoga in AM
More day trips
Move water activities
Dolphin Tours
More soccer fields.
Advertise more
Beautification program, flowers
Less of everything at less cost
Senior pool and billiards
Sauna or steam room
Advertise activities more
Turtle Program
Walking path or sidewalk to connect Dutchman Creek Park to Bill Smith Park – 2 times
Adequate parking
Larger skate park
Better maintenance (landscaping) tennis courts & other parks
Maintenance of existing shelters and walkways
No alcoholic beverages on Oak Island Pier, should be family-oriented
Lookout on ICW NE/Middleton area
More playground equipment in the parks
Scrapbooking class
Acquire undeveloped land and leave undeveloped
<u>Beach Improvement</u>
Improve Yaupon Beach: showers, restrooms

Life guards @ beach July – August
Acquire new property for beachfront parking
Lifeguard station @ Cabana
Lifeguards at Beach
We need lifeguards at designated areas.
Toilets and showers at more beach accesses – 12 times
Have beach access points better for wheel chair users. Wood down so wheel chair users can get to beach.
More access to portable toilets
No smoking on the beach and pier.
All beach access and parks should have pedestrian walks, signs so cross Oak Island Dr. would be easier.
Beach restrooms-not porta-potties would be nice down at the point and at Middleton.
Showers would be nice.
Wooden walkways to the beach would be nice too.
Beach access points for wheelchair users are not kept up so that wheelchair users can use them. Usually there's sand over the wood put down or missing pieces of wood. It would be great to be able to have good access to the beach, but very hard on me seeing as how I'm in a chair.
More bathrooms at beach 2,2
Snack bar on beach
Clean up trash at The Point
2- Put trash cans on beach
2 - Filter rocks from beach sand
More beach parking/ocean front parking
Love pier area
Designate section of beach for unleashed dog use, year-round
Public access to beach fantastic
West end most of the beach is gone. We need sand, thanks for your help
Consider adding more crossovers from Oak Island Drive side to beach
Rake beach to cleanup debris
Concession buildings at the beach with vending and bathrooms
Boardwalk area with bathrooms and drinking water
Maintain full access to all water: @ street ends, canals, beachfront
Keep up the good work
More handicap beach access
Beach access signs at all locations especially middle of the block need to be marked like the end of the streets
Beach Vitex education
Keep dogs off beach
There seems to be no concern about beach protection and use
Pier is full of drunks and needs to be addressed
Reduce cost of Pier for Oak Island residents
Put up parking meters at Oak Island Pier
Do not let people sit at the beginning of the Oak Island Pier who smoke, drink, and have dogs.
Public access to beach fantastic
<u>Bicycle Use</u>
Provide bike trail to Southport
Bicycle paths connecting Brunswick County Towns
More bike paths 2
Bike path on Yacht Drive
More beach access points.
Maintain Bike paths better
<u>General Community Comments</u>
Lower cost for residences (property?)
Make dog friendly
Don't become Myrtle Beach
Provide sidewalks and crosswalks on Beach Drive
Greenways connecting Brunswick County Towns
More Davis Canal crossovers

Pick up liter
Clean up Oak Island Pier scene
More sidewalks
Would like more sidewalks
Take care of trees in parks and do not cut down
Get golf carts off the sidewalks
Allow fishing and bicycle on walkovers
Put more Recreation activities on Channel 8
Allow teens to use weight room
Sidewalks on Yacht and beach
Beach Improvement (non-P&R) Comments
Improve Yaupon Beach parking
More beach parking on west end
Bathrooms at the Point
Off leash section of beach for dogs

Question #10. Of the following new recreational activities, tank up to five that you would like to see provided with 1 being your favorite:

Activities where single adults can meet others
More classical music concerts
Book club
More senior activities/trips2
Fishing
Ranked 5: Tai Chi
Ranked 3:Target Range
Unranked: running track
Ranked 3: Spin Class
Ranked 2: Tai Chi
Ranked 2: Tree Planting and Environmental Education
Ranked 5: On Island family recreation activities, that are not costly
Ranked 5: Van day trips and boat
Basketball
Knitting
Weight training instruction
Ranked 2 Little Guards
Ranked 1 tennis clinics
Ranked 1 fundraising community
Ranked 5 water aerobics
Bocce ball courts @ Rec Center
Ranked 5 Racquet ball
Ranked 2: Nature Trail
Ranked 5 Aerobics Studio
We have enough
Ranked 1: Beach sidewalks not just wider roads
Ranked 5: Surfing
Self defense for seniors
Self defense
Racquetball
Woman's weight lifting class
Guide tours of the Green Swamp/ co-ordinate with Nature Conservancy
Town sponsored sightseeing boat trips up Davis Canal
Educational classes
Open water swimming competition
Fishing tournaments
Schedules not convenient for working families
Tennis lessons.
I am 80 years old, so none of the above.

Ranked 3rd: Variety of spiritual classes.
Ranked 4th: Art-crafts.
Love the 4th activities and music.
Ranked 1st: Basketball.
Gardening
Ranked 4th: Advanced athletics.
Water spray playgrounds.
Ranked 1st: Soccer.
We have enough.
Ranked 2nd: Motorcycle rides
Senior aerobics 5 days/wk Mon-Fri
Golf lessons, driving range
Ranked 4th: Seminars on stop smoking programs
Ranked 4th: Jumba *assume Zumba*

Question #11. Of the following park, recreational facility, or recreational building amenities, rank up to five that you would like to see improved with one being your favorite or highest:

Arboretum with labeled plants, educational program, environmental awareness
Swimming pools (also checked in the question list immediately above)
Ranked 5 Racquet ball
Ranked 2: Nature Trail
Ranked 5 Aerobics Studio
We have enough
Ranked 1: Beach sidewalks not just wider roads
Ranked 5: Surfing
Outdoor basketball courts.
Need to save habitats for animals.
Swimming pool.
No new open space should be acquired at this time.
Bicycle lanes.
Not sure I understand the purpose of this question.
Unranked: natural undeveloped areas
Ranked 5th: golf cart lanes
Ranked 5th: Unorganized *More Playgrounds*
Ranked 1st: Creative writing activities, programs never include poetry
Ranked 2nd: Larger all-purpose room for wedding receptions

Question #13 Rank the following potential benefits that are most important to you and your family? One being the highest or most benefit:

Protect environment to attract tourists
Restrict development
Ranked 1 Promote quality family time

Question #19 How would you best describe your household?

Have grandchildren 3

Question #20 Please include any additional suggestions or comments you have that are not addressed by this survey:

Recreation dept does a wonderful job – 10 times
Tourists unaware of parks offerings, improve directional signage
OI P&R does good job but need more activities
OI P&R needs male staff member(s)
More volunteer clubs
More arts & crafts/ pottery/painting

Kayak use
- Better/more kayak access points
- Year-round kayak opportunities
- Kayak rentals

Provide other equipment rentals
Youth table tennis program
Other OI departments should be as efficient as P&R. Keep up the good work
Boat Ramps Repair existing/design new with engineer who understands navel architecture
Gym with Track
Eliminate P&R Department
Do not place any improvements across bridge (presume, nothing on mainland)
Dog Park needs improvement
Staff does an excellent job maintaining facilities, designing, and running programs
Steam Room
Sauna
Whirlpool
Enough parks no more are needed
Funding and awareness for Turtle Program
Update Rec Center
Do not spend anymore on Recreation until economy improves
We plan to increase our use of facilities and programs
Our Parks and Recreation dept. is the beast around. The employees are all kind and know about programs going on.
OI has a done a wonderful job with parks and rec facilities. As a life long resident it just keeps getting better.
I think OI already does an excellent job with recreational facilities. It was a major reason for our choosing OI as a second home over other coastal areas. I applaud this effort for on-going improvements
Return Hannon a Templeton to the way it was without ugly fence and let dogs & people use the whole area
Movie night is great – 2 times
Do not use parks but good for people who enjoy.
No new anything until we pay off debt
Open space access should be considered in newly annexed area
Pool tables
More benches along walkways
Round-up the poison ivy on paths
Inside Arcade
Skate rink/ ice
Teen club
Teen Music Center
Use Ogden Park in New Hanover as a model, Large dog park, lake with fountains to walk around, tennis soccer football, baseball wooded trails
Easier Handicap access to parks and rest areas
More benches in shade
More greenways , hiking and walking trails – 2 times
Too many fees for everything
Too many parks bought at enormous cost to residents
Improve recruiting for Turtle Parents to include orientation meeting and meeting to “share” after turtle season
Allow 16 year olds in weight room
Recreation Center for east and west end of island

Appendix 3: Notes from the October 22, 2009 Stakeholder's Meeting

Oak Island Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Stakeholder and Public Meeting Summary

15 attendees

The following notes summarize discussions held in Oak Island on October 22, 2010. In total, there were five informational meetings held, four attended by community leaders and other stakeholders - those with particular interest or expertise in recreation.

Comment summaries from each of the stakeholder meetings have been combined and consolidated into common topic categories.

Stakeholder Meeting Discussion

Topics are in the order of their citation in the first stakeholder session. Subsequent comments from later stakeholder sessions are incorporated into those already identified topic headings where most appropriate, or, if applicable, entered as new topic headings.

Distinction Between Recently Completed Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Oak Island's Master Plan

The Brunswick County's Master Plan obviously has a countywide focus, with attention to land-use policy. Oak Island's Master Plan will be more directly tailored to the specific needs of the Oak Island Community and its unique geographic relationship to the ocean. Of note, the Brunswick County Master Plan (BCMP) does identify the need for additional aquatic facilities within the county and suggests the benefits of joint participation between the county and municipal governments. It was suggested that the opportunities for partnering with the county on a variety of projects, including aquatics, be pursued.

Specifically, it was noted that the BCMP calls for investment in multi-purpose aquatic and/or gymnasium facilities in Sunset Beach and the Oak island/Southport areas of the county.

The Present Character of Oak Island/Quality of Life Issues

Stakeholders repeatedly stressed the desirability of Oak Islands' quality of life, citing its family-oriented atmosphere, free of the kind of excessive commercialization characteristic of other east coast beach communities. Although they appreciated that demographic and economic changes will come to the community, they suggested that it would remain important for Oak Island to do everything possible to preserve its present, small-town character. Some described this character as "blue collar," others described it as "unpretentious." Regardless of specific description, there is an evident atmosphere to the community which most residents are very interested in preserving.

A number of favorable attributes of Oak Islands' character where discussed including its appeal to families, freedom from the kind of visual clutter that accompanies commercial development, and the presence of largely locally-run businesses and enterprises, as opposed to national franchises.

An obvious community asset repeatedly cited was Oak Island's relation to the ocean and in particular, its position facing south and its relative elevation above sea level when compared to other, predominantly low-lying beach communities. The abundance of public beach access was cited as an asset that distinguishes the town. Temperate year-round weather was also noted as an asset as was the town's preservation of natural areas, including its Intracoastal

Waterway, wetlands, canals, and many trees. Each of these elements were seen as contributing to a highly desirable quality of life for community residents, something that is not typical of other, more commercially aimed North Carolina beach towns.

Beyond the issues of quality of life, the essential affordability of Oak Island is considered among its most important assets. Most long-term residents believe the community has continued to represent a good economic value precisely because its avoidance of commercialization has kept property values within reason. Although this circumstance may not hold true indefinitely, it is one of the more compelling reasons why many residents have made Oak Island their home.

It was acknowledged that the community does lack a "center" or traditional downtown district, due to the extreme elongation of the island's geography. Nevertheless, the area immediately adjacent to the Town Hall was recognized as possessing the seeds of a community center that would be worth developing in the future.

Several stakeholders recommended the development of partnerships between the municipal government and commercial interests, seeking to promote mixed-use developments that might include both civic uses (amphitheater and aquatic center cited) as well as retailing. The Mayfair Center in Wilmington was cited as an example of this form of development, one that creates a dynamic synergy within the community.

Conversely, it was also noted that there are few on-island properties available to sustain this scale of development and there is a relatively vocal proportion of the island population that would resist such large scale, on-island development. Recently annexed portions of the community, most particularly, the Williamson Tract, would offer opportunities for such development on the mainland side of the community, but as with many decisions relative to proposed Oak Island planning, an appropriate balance between mainland and island interests would need to be struck.

Whether or not Oak Island chooses to engage in a more aggressive promotion of development in the future, several stakeholders stressed that the community needed to find ways to "brand" itself, so that its present virtues could be recognized more widely and steps taken for their preservation.

The implementation of more aggressive branding strategies include greater participation with Brunswick County's Tourism Development Authority, the use of occupancy tax revenues for the promotion of tourism, targeted promotion of community assets including the beachfront and golf course, and more investment in facilities and special events (festivals, concerts, sports tournaments) that would attract added tourist interest and revenue. The overall goal of such initiatives would be to effectively brand Oak Island as a desirable destination for both tourists and potential future residents.

This notion of making the good qualities of Oak Island more evident to those outside the community received a mixed reaction from many stakeholder participants. Some acknowledged that Oak Island's "secret" might be information best kept to itself. As stated by one participant: "it is our isolation that has made Oak Island special."

There was consensus that regardless of external promotion of Oak Island, it would be helpful to have a more comprehensive discussion among the town's residents about their priorities for preserving the community's present quality of life. As put by one participant: " We know what we don't want to become, but we need to decide what we want to be."

As with many similar communities, the stakeholders recognize there will always be an inherent challenge in preserving the best qualities of a place while still accommodating change. This was noted as being particularly true for Oak Island, given that many stakeholder participants anticipate considerable demographic change in the coming years, with the town's population becoming more balanced between long-term and newly arrived residents, especially those with children.

Traffic congestion, particularly in the summer months was cited as being among the most worrisome problems for the community at present. Opinions were mixed on the impact of the opening of the second bridge connection to the island. While it is assumed the bridge will divert a good portion of vehicular traffic to the western portions of the island, it is also understood that the mere presence of another, highly convenient route onto the island may inevitably lead to a greater volume of traffic overall.

One response to traffic congestion would be for the town to offer greater opportunities for pedestrian and bike transit on the island. (See additional bicycle comments)

IN summary, the stakeholders suggest that whatever plans are put in place for the future of Oak island, including the Parks and Recreation Department, that such plans acknowledge the essential character of the community and enact policies which continue to promote its preservation.

Discussion of Oak Island Population Trends

According to stakeholder participants, Oak Island is thought to have about 9,000 full-time residents, with another 4,500 part-time residents who have second homes n the community. During the summer months, it is estimated the town's daytime population grows to between 22,000 and 50,000, depending on the time of week, time of summer and the weather, this increase consisting predominantly of day trippers.

It is acknowledged that the town's full-time resident population may indeed grow in the coming years, but such growth will be much subdued until the end of the current economic downturn. Following a return to growth, it is nevertheless unlikely that the island portion of the town will grow in any significant degree because of a reluctance

to permit more dense, on-island development. As a consequence, new population growth will occur in mainland areas of town, particularly in those newly annexed areas north of the new bridge.

The Potential Impact of Annexation on Oak Island

The scale and pace of probable development of recently annexed properties on Oak Island's mainland was discussed. It was noted that the current land use plan for only one of these areas (the Williamson tract) has been submitted to the town for review. These plans call for predominantly residential development with a small proportion of commercial space and a number of set asides for wetland preservation and recreational parks and facilities (approximately 50 acres).

One participant cited an example of land use planning in Cary in which land slated for future commercial and residential development was "banked" in the interim for recreational uses and suggested this could be a good potential for Oak Island in its newly annexed areas.

When asked what kinds of recreational development might be most appropriate for these areas, participants responded with a series of suggestions including additional ball fields, soccer fields, greenway development and nature conservancy areas.

It was also noted that at the time of full build-out, the Williamson development would likely support the construction of several public schools. It was suggested that recreational amenities planned for such areas be done in concert with the school system's plans in areas of both programming and assumption of capital expenditures.

It was suggested by one stakeholder participant that the ultimate development of annexed areas on the town's mainland might have a pronounced and unfavorable impact on the island's commercial enterprises. This was not a universally held assumption, though it was conceded that those island businesses not directly related to beach activities (various services: car repair, sales, general use retailing, etc) would become less viable with greater mainland competition.

Beach Access/Beach Parking/Beach Use

Multiple access points to the beach were repeatedly cited as one of Oak Island's most attractive assets. There was some concern about traffic congestion caused by non-resident beach goers and their need for convenient beach parking.

More comprehensive and convenient beach amenities were recommended including public showers and rest rooms with ADA access.

OI Parks and Recreation Department's Response to Community Needs

Overall, the Parks and Recreation Department was given much praise for the way in which its programming responds to perceived needs in the community. In particular, its services to the senior community were cited as being comprehensive, well run, and adequate to meet the community's present need.

It was noted that the department presently works with very limited facilities in the provision of these services. The kitchen at the Recreation Center was mentioned as being severely pressed in terms of its space and equipment needs in support the Nutri-Lunch program. Other desired senior needs that could be improved included therapeutic aquatics (see aquatics comments) and greater access to aerobic classes.

Overall, recreational opportunities for residents of all ages were cited as needing additional space capacity (the Weight Room in the Recreation center was cited several times as an example), but overall, the stakeholders were very complementary of the job the Parks and Recreation staff has done in extending the town's limited facility resources to serve the greatest number of community residents.

Recreation for the community's youth, especially those in the 13-17 age group, was cited as being a significant need for Oak Island. Although the Parks and Recreation Department offers a number of programs and facilities specifically aimed at youth needs (Teen Center, Skate Park, Youth recreation and sport programs), there was still an overriding sense that there is not enough for young people to do in the community. Particularly for young summer visitors with idle time or during periods of inclement weather. This group is also unlikely to be well versed in the island's recreational offerings

There was general consensus that youth needed more safe places to aggregate, more programming, and more resources directed to parents who would encourage (or at least transport) their kids to recreational opportunities.

Better communication of available resources was also recommended, as was the suggestion of transportation opportunities to grant young people access to centralized facilities and activities. No specific transit recommendations were offered, but it was acknowledged that it is difficult for non-driving youth to get around the island unassisted.

Specific suggestions for youth activities ranged from increased Parks and Recreation Department programming (more soccer and basketball leagues in particular, new aquatic facilities rock climbing walls, additional extreme sport facilities) to commercially developed amenities including a move theater, bowling alley, and amusement arcade.

Park Locations

When asked whether the present locations of Oak Island's parks and other recreational facilities were appropriate, most stakeholder participants felt reasonably comfortable with the convenience and capabilities of the parks' locations. There was some slight concern over making sure that resources for new facilities or upgrades for existing ones be allocated in a manner that is proportionate to the distribution of Oak Island's population, especially in relation to the distinction drawn between mainland vs. island amenities.

Dog Park

Several stakeholder participants recommended greater opportunities for pet exercise.

Park Guild

It was suggested that a non-profit Parks Guild be formed to promote the ongoing development of the Parks and Recreation Department. Suggested activities would include fund raising, promotion, advocacy and volunteer activities.

The Need for Aquatic Facilities in Oak Island

A number of stakeholders noted the demand and need for greater access to aquatic facilities, notwithstanding the new facility recently opened by Brunswick Community College (BCC). Stakeholders were evenly divided on the issue of the type of facility required: therapy pool vs. competition or training pool, vs. recreational pool.

A therapy pool was cited as a potential revenue resource, or at least one that could be self-supporting through its prescribed medical use that would be reimbursed by health insurance. Independent or hospital-based aquatic therapy providers could also build into their course fee structure a revenue stream that would help offset operating costs and could potentially contribute to the facilities' capital costs, depending on the fee structure. It was noted that the therapy facility at BCC is already heavily utilized and there is a clear demand for additional aquatic therapy facilities in the community.

Several participants advocated for additional competitive and/or training type facilities to meet the competitive swimming needs of the community.

In terms of indoor vs. outdoor facilities, most stakeholders advised to seek indoor solutions that could accommodate year-round and inclement weather resident use. Outdoor pools would be welcome, but their need is less critical given the ease of access to the beach during the summer.

Aquatic facilities were also cited as being of benefit in providing recreational opportunities for both resident youth (see youth activities comment) and visiting youth. In addition, the potential for swimming education was noted as being of high importance to the area.

Oak Island Sentiments Regarding Municipal Expenditures and Tax Burden

There was nearly unanimous agreement among stakeholders that Oak Island residents are concerned about the magnitude of recent town capital improvement expenditures. The depth of this concern ranges from general unease to extreme concern among a significant minority of residents. All participants acknowledge that this sentiment has been magnified by the economic downturn of the past several years. As summarized by one participant, the town's current attitude is "let's pay for what we already have first."

The general opinion of the stakeholders was that it would be extremely difficult to propose significant new capital expenditures for the next two to three years unless the economy (and corresponding revenues) shows marked improvement.

By the same token, it was noted by some stakeholders that the town's present debt burden is not excessive in relation to other municipalities in the state, and that certain measures, including the recent annexation and forthcoming changes in the municipal airport's operation will likely result in revenue enhancements in the coming years.

When and if the economic climate improves, it was noted that there would be a variety of non-recreational needs, which may assume priority over Parks and Recreation Department programming and facilities recommendations. It was suggested that those community leaders who wish to advocate on behalf of municipally sponsored recreation expenditures craft a carefully articulated defense of support for the Parks and Recreation Department, particularly in justifying future proposed expenditures in relation to an analysis of assumed benefits. As one participant noted;" Money spent on recreation is a positive investment in our town's quality of life."

In terms of the potential for public bond referendums, it was noted that voters across North Carolina have for the past decade approved parks and recreation bond approximately 89% of the time, suggesting reasonably strong public support fouch expenditures. It was nevertheless conceded that this average success rate reflects a period of far greater economic heath

This presents a particular paradox for the community. Its desire to retain its family-oriented character is also its most significant impediment to offsetting residential tax revenues with those that could be generated by increased commercial development.

In summary, the overriding stakeholder sense of the public's sentiment is that plans for the immediate future should made only with great caution, carefully balancing expenditures and currently projected community resources.

Greenway Development

Several stakeholder participants endorsed the development of community greenways and connection to the area’s system of regional greenways. Oak Island's plan should review Brunswick County's Greenway Master Plan and develop strategies for inclusion in future community development.

Bicycle Use

Many participants encouraged greater promotion of bicycle use on the island. It was noted that the town is in the final stages of securing right of way for a dedicated bike path throughout the island and out to Highway 211. Other options for greater bicycle use were discussed including a bike rental program for tourists, run out of the Recreation Center, and greater provision of island bikes paths in areas other than along Oak Island Blvd. For this last suggestion, one difficulty raised was the extremely narrow right of way available on many present Oak Island side streets, which precludes allowing sufficient width for bikes, vehicles and pedestrians.

Fort Caswell Example

The Baptist conference center was cited as an example of an allied provider of recreational services in the vicinity. The center holds a number of summer day camps for various age and interest groups including programming that focuses on environmental and coastal issues, historical tours, and other forms of recreation. In addition to conferencing and accommodations, the facility has an outdoor 25 yd. pool. Staff and facility resources limit present programming on the site.

Utilization of Existing Oak Island Parks

Existing Oak Island parks were thought to be fairly well utilized although there was some disagreement over the community value of particular parks. In particular, one participant identified Bill Smith Park as being very well utilized while another participant claimed just the opposite. All participants noted that there seemed to be a much greater utilization of all of the community's parks and programming services during the present economic downturn.

Appendix 4: Notice of the October 22, 2009 Public Meeting

Oak Island Parks and Recreation Master Plan

October 22, 2009
6:00 pm
Oak Island Recreation Center
3003 East Oak Island Drive

The Town of Oak Island is preparing a 10-year plan for the future of its recreation programs, parks, recreational facilities, and recreational buildings in order to meet the needs of our citizens.

Your input is very important to the success of this effort. Please plan to attend the meeting.

For more information please contact:
Kellie Beeson
Director, Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department
910-278-5518
kbeeson@ci.oak-island.nc.us

Appendix 5: Notes from the October 28, 2009 Public Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN STUDY
AND PUBLIC FORUM
90 + people attended this meeting

Oak Island Recreation Center
October 2009

MR. SPEARS: Good evening, everyone. My name is Roger Spears. I am an architectural designer with Szostak Design. I want to thank you all for joining us here tonight. We're really looking forward to having a very vigorous discussion about the future of Parks and Recreation, planning, and the Town of Oak Island.

Okay. Very good. Good evening. Thank you all so much for being here tonight. We really appreciate that. As always, it's always an extraordinary pleasure to be back in Oak Island again, and speaking with you all.

I want to get right down to business, so the first order, as far as I'm concerned is going to be a little participatory democracy. I don't -- to me, you all look very comfortable out there. You know, I've had this tie on since 7:30 this morning, so we're going to take a vote. Everybody in favor of me taking off the tie, raise your right hands. Bless you. Thank you. That feels wonderful.

Before you is really an extraordinary opportunity and essentially tonight we're starting this process. I recognize a lot of faces out in the audience. I know that we all worked together about two years ago when we were developing plans for this facility, and the city of Oak Island was kind enough to invite us back again to assist you all with this new master planning endeavor. We were just tickled when we got the call. And in this day, and in this economy, we're just thankful to have the work, so I'm just doubly thankful to be here tonight.

Last August, the city of Oak Island called and asked us if we'd come participate. They wanted to look at the next ten years, minimum, for the development of the Parks and Recreation Department, and wanted it to be a comprehensive look. We want to look at everything, your facilities, your programming, your operations, the philosophy that underlies the system. We put together a proposal. The Council was kind enough to approve that. They formed the steering committee and we got started really just a couple of weeks ago.

Tonight is really our first opportunity to bring some of our thoughts to you, the public. So here's what I'd like to propose. I'm going to spend maybe twenty minutes talking to you a little bit about the kinds of things we've been thinking about for the future of Oak Island, and the nature of the study that we're going to be investigating. But we really want to spend the bulk of the evening hearing what you all have to say to us about where you see Parks and Recreation going, and if you wish, even to speak more broadly about where you see this community going. Because in very many ways, your departments are a reflection of your community and so, you know, Parks and Recreation needs to support the way you all feel this community should represent itself and serve its citizens. So your input is critically important.

As I said, I'm going to take about twenty minutes just to give you some background. We're going to have a good hour, hour and fifteen minutes for question and answer, comments. I'm going to record all these things on a pad. Amanda's going to assist me.

I can tell you this. Don't the Yankees play the Angels at eight? We will be gone by then, I can assure you of that. I'm a fan, but I'm not going to tell you which team right now. We'll talk about that later. So if I could get the lights, now we'll go ahead and take you very briefly through the process that we're going to be following.

We are scheduled to put together a final report some time in the early spring, we're targeting roughly March or April. As I say, today is really the beginning in terms of the public response to the kinds of things we're thinking about. There'll be another forum, right now we're not exactly sure when, but in all likelihood, some time in December, maybe at the beginning of the year. We'll put together a draft report, February, March. The committee will review that and then we'll present a final report to Council late March, early April. And by that time, we should have a really good picture of where this endeavor is going.

So let me just briefly take you through this. This is an excerpt directly from our proposal to do this work for you. And it really has two parts. The first part you see right here. We need to understand where you are today. What is the nature of the Parks and Recreation Department as it stands? What is the suitability of your facilities, what programs do you offer, do those programs and facilities meet the service needs of the community it is serving? So we want a comprehensive analysis of where you are today.

The second part, which is equally important is where are we going to take this in the future. And specifically, our charge is to look ten years out. But, I think, as the mayor was suggesting, we're going to set in motion a series of plans and philosophies that are going to take you the next several decades, in all likelihood. There's lots of opportunities now to set forth grounding principles, and that's what we want to get at. We want to do the right thing for Oak Island, and the best way to do that is to be very clear about how we plan these things.

Briefly, we want to identify the leadership for this investigation. Obviously the Council has directed us to perform this work on your behalf. They've also nominated a steering committee, and as the mayor pointed out, J.C. is co-chair, along with Amanda Hall. And then we have nine other members who are assisting us, and I think a few of them are in the audience today, but they begged me not to identify them. So I think you may know many of those folks. What I would suggest to you is, these people are great resources for you. So even after tonight, if something comes to mind that you think would be an important idea for us to consider, please feel free to get in touch with one of these folks and chat with them about anything that crosses your mind in relationship to these issues.

Of course, Kellie Beeson, I can point her out, is your Director of Parks and Recreation Department. She's serving in an advisory capacity to our committee.

Here's a summary of really what the study's going to contain. These six elemental pieces:

- Demographics - what's the population now? What's it going to be in the future?
- Public input, really critical. We're doing a number of different things to gauge the public's opinion about various initiatives that could be undertaken.
- Peer communities. We want to understand not only what's right for Oak Island, how does it compare to what other communities are providing for their citizens?
- A needs assessment is simply looking at facilities and operations and see what the relationship is between the needs of the community and your ability to deliver services.
- We're going to look at trends in recreation. What are the new things that we think are going to be coming urgent? Activities and offerings of recreation departments in the next ten or fifteen years.
- And then ultimately, we want to come up with a set of concrete recommendations that can give you clear guidance in terms of planning, in terms of budgeting to take that forward for the consideration of the policy makers.

So let me start with demographics and mapping. You all recognize this. This is sort of what we usually think of as being Oak Island. There's the characteristic east-west bar of the island portion. There's the Intracoastal Waterway, and then across the bridge we have what I think you affectionately refer to as the mainland. In addition, of course, there's more to Oak Island now than there was two years ago when we were here, because you'll note that there's been an ongoing process of annexation for a series of properties which lie north of the Intracoastal Waterway.

And so suddenly the character of Oak Island changes in somewhat dramatic fashion. I think the most telling outcome of this--if you look at how you have developed as an island over time, the very islandness of Oak Island precludes you from having a lot of opportunities to change your population, to change your density. You've got a finite amount of space, and you have--you've used it very effectively, but there's not a lot of space on the island to do more things.

So we start to look at the trends for population growth, and even though we know once we get out of this recession, cross your fingers, the demand for quality lifestyles, each environment is going to grow, there's really not much opportunity for that growth to occur on Oak Island itself. But on the other hand, if we look at these parcels that are part of your recent annexation proposals, largely undeveloped tracts of land, so there's rather extraordinary opportunities for growth there in the future.

And one of the things, of course, that always stimulates growth, not only do we need to have property that is right for development, you need access to that property. And so one of the most profound changes, as I think you're all aware, is going to come to this community is the completion of that bridge, because suddenly there's going to be an entirely new way to get to the island, and an entirely new way to get back to 211. And certainly the opportunities presented by that property become rather extraordinary, and what I think is -- oops -- there you go. The opportunities presented by that development are going to bring fairly profound changes to this community. And one of the things that we're doing in this process is getting out in front of that, to try to understand what its implications are and what it means for you all.

What we can say, when growth resumes, and we certainly believe it's going to by hopefully the third quarter of 2010 on into 2011, then we really truly believe that there's going to be renewed demand for residences, some commercial development, and we're going to start to see that coming particularly to the coastal areas.

I want to talk briefly about one of those parcels which I think you all know something about, which is the Williamson tract. And just describe to you for a moment what we mean and what this opportunity means for you all. This is, as I say, a tract of land just north of the Intracoastal Waterway. If you look right here, this is the new bridge connection that's coming in. It's being built right now. The road that connects on up here to 211. There's about 3000 acres of real estate that can be developed. This is a plan submitted for what they call a conceptual master plan approval in October 2006. So this has been on the books for a while. There have been adjustments on the basis of the economy, but this is essentially the nature of the plan that they're considering for this area.

As I say, about 3000 acres, about a third of that is to go to residential development. There is about 137 acres that would be devoted to commercial development, so a relatively small fraction of it. But I think what's interesting for our purposes, they've dedicated over 400 acres for parks and recreation. So this is, I think we need to understand, is a 20-year development plan, so it's not all going to come to fruition in the next five years, but over the course of that 20 years, there's at least 430 acres of this parcel that's going to be devoted directly to uses that correspond to the very same mission statement as your Parks and Recreation Department.

So this does give us an extraordinary opportunity to start thinking about how we can deal with that opportunity. I would add, there are wetland areas, there are protected areas, which adds substantially to that acreage which would also be available to us for leisure recreational use. So that's a part of the opportunity and as we look at the changes we foresee in population, in movement of population, and building patterns, that's going to affect decisions that we want to make about how we develop service areas for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The second part of our study is exactly what we're doing tonight, which is really trying to understand what it is that citizens of Oak Island feel their Recreation Department needs to be. And we'll be doing this in a couple of different ways. Obviously, we're having a public forum tonight. We're going to record all this information, document it, it'll be posted on the website, probably within the next week. We're going to do another public forum for sure, about in December, maybe January, possibly a third one if we feel it's important for us to sit back with you again.

We've also throughout today held stakeholder meetings, and these are members of your community who you've identified as being in leadership positions. They're elected officials, folks who represent constituencies who have a real interest in Parks and Recreation activities. For example, the clergy joined us today. We have talked to members of the Chamber of Commerce, people representing Brunswick County, peer communities in and around Oak Island, in an effort both to request that they go back to their constituents and solicit their ideas about what could be done, and also just to lean upon their expertise and knowledge of the community. So that will continue.

In addition, many of you have probably received a citizens' survey. We sent out 9000 of these about two weeks ago. They were included in utility bills and we are hopeful that every fulltime resident of Oak Island and every property owner of Oak Island received one of these surveys, and it's going to give us a very comprehensive look at how you all feel about the Parks and Recreation Department. So we are looking forward to getting those back. As I say, 9000 went out, we've gotten 450 back already, and we're hoping to get another 450, 500 back. We'll tabulate that and in our next meeting we'll bring you the results of that so that you can compare it to your own feelings about the opinions of this in the community. In addition, as I said before, the steering committee is available to you. If there's other things, ideas, you'd like to communicate to them, you should feel free to give any of them a call or e-mail message and pass along your thoughts.

The third piece of this study, peer communities. We don't want to know only what we think is needed for Oak Island, we want to see what other communities are doing in the same or similar vein. So, for example, communities which are also ocean-side communities which have a population that is similar to Oak Island, we'd like to talk to them a little bit about how they deal with the very same issues you're being asked to deal with. How big is their Parks and Recreation Department? How many staff do they need to administer their services? How much does it cost to run the operation on a yearly basis? How much park land do they devote per resident? And we want to develop a matrix of comparisons so we can see sort of where does Oak Island stand in comparison to these other communities. So the committee suggested three in North Carolina, and actually one in Florida. We're going to start this process here in the next week, calling these folks and really trying to understand what it is that they do for their programs.

But speaking of programs and facilities, we're also beginning an assessment of what you have right now, and I just briefly want to summarize for you where Parks and Rec stands today, at least in terms of our initial analysis. So first let's talk about facilities and parks. I'm going to take you through a series of maps and we're going to look, initially at least, at the east side of Middleton on the island. Okay. Here we have -- the green dots are nine of your, what we would call, your standard parks, the largest of which and newest, as a matter of fact, Smith Park up here, across from the airport. Probably the second largest is Middleton and Middleton extension. Both these parks predominantly have athletic facilities, baseball fields, soccer areas, disc golf. And the remaining parks are typically neighborhood parks, relatively small, one block areas that tended to occur where there was a place in the grid that presented an opportunity for a park to exist.

In addition to all of those conventional parks, we have a number of facilities. And "facilities" is very general terminology, but for instance, we have the golf course up here. Situated around Middleton, we have actually four pretty important facilities to this community. We have the Community Resource Center, we've got the Teen Center, we have the Cabana, and we also have the Ocean Education Center. Of course tonight, we're at the Recreation Center here, and then our Nature Center located there.

And then there's a third classification of elements in Oak Island represented by the pink squares. These are things for which we couldn't find any good definition, so we called them the "others." These would be the crossovers, boat access points for canoes, for motor boats. Oak Island Pier fits into this category, right down here. Here's your crab dock, a whole host of things that just sort of defy easy characterization.

Now, as I say, that's all of the Parks and Recreation facilities that lie to the east of Middleton. But of course there are some services that are included to the west of Middleton, but they're relatively limited because for so long the west has been very difficult to access. Of course we do have one park way out on the west point, the Point Park, and then we have three service areas, two principally for canoes and kayaks, and one for motor boats. So those are your facilities.

But tied to that facility, of course, are the kinds of programming that those facilities permit you to operate. I just want to briefly summarize the kinds of things you're doing here in your department. First of all, it's sort of obvious that the Parks and Recreation Department is going to deal in one way or another with athletics, and your department is very vigorous in terms of the kinds of programs offerings that it makes available to its citizens. For example, I'll just give you a list. Golf, lacrosse, adult soccer, flag football, skate boarding, adult volleyball, tennis, softball - both for youth and fifty-plus, and disc golf, and at least up until the time you started construction on the town hall, there was in-line hockey also offered, but they lost that due to the addition onto the police department building. So you have a staff of about eight people in your Parks and Recreation Department, and yet they are really producing a lot of activities, a lot of recreational amenities for this community.

And it doesn't stop with athletics. Under the term wellness or fitness programming, you all have aerobics, pilates, kick boxing, yoga, there's wellness classes, there's health seminars, weight training, cardio training--most of which occurs within this building, and most of which I would suggest occurs within this room as scheduled very tightly throughout the course of every day.

There are a number of leisure activities. A whole bunch of things geared to very specific population groups within Oak Island. There are activities for teens; there are abundant activities for seniors--trips, seminars, cultural activities; a lot of holiday programming. There are musical presentations that are sponsored by Parks and Rec. You have classes in arts and crafts; board games, table tennis, hiking, biking--it's just hard to know what to pick, you've got so much to choose from here.

And then on top of that, there are a whole series of things that this department does that you wouldn't ordinarily expect to be a part of a Parks and Recreation Department. I think you're all aware of the extraordinary work that they have done in the turtle

protection program. This building itself supports a whole host of civic activities that would have no place else to meet if it weren't for the Parks and Rec Department--the Boy Scouts, quilting club--any number of civic organizations, indeed the fact that we can meet here tonight is at the courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Department. And the Nutrilunch program, in the same room, correct? No, the room next door. Every day, five days a week, fifteen to thirty seniors have lunch provided. It takes about three hours of that room's usage during the course of the day.

So, you know, it's just an extraordinary range of offerings and an incredible amount of service. And I guess what we're talking about is, is that going to be enough in the future when your community, in all likelihood, is going to begin to grow? So we want to talk a little bit about the next part of our assignment which is, now that we've assessed what you have, what are we going to do in the future? And there's a couple very interesting questions I'd love to have us have some discussion about this tonight.

First of all, basic question, what is a park? How big should a park be? How far should I have to drive to get to it? Do I want a park that has every athletic activity that I might want, or do I just want a quiet place where I can sit at a park bench? So first of all, understanding what the basic nature of a park is, and how you feel it best satisfies the needs of this community is real elemental question for us.

There's a whole series of other questions that we need to address. Although we offer a lot of activities in this community, there are a lot of things that can't be offered, either because we don't have the space in Oak Island, or we don't have the right kind of facilities, we don't have the budgeting. For example, basketball, really hard without a gymnasium. Gymnastics would be a really great thing to offer, but we really can't do it in the spaces you have available to you. There are all kinds of new sports that have emerged in the last twenty years that really no one contemplated when they first considered building a Parks and Recreation Department. Extreme sports, you know, extreme skateboarding, rock wall climbing has become extraordinarily popular. In fact, when we were here two years ago, if you came to the public meeting, there were a couple of teens in the audience and they got up and, you know, this is what they wanted. And I tell you, when a teen tells you they want something, and they show enthusiasm for it in a public meeting, that's kind of meaningful.

So there's a lot of things we need to explore in that realm, one of which we've talked about before, which is an aquatics program, which does require some real thinking in terms of facilities planning. There are at least four major, different attributes of an aquatics program that you may want to consider: therapy pools used for rehabilitation, for water aerobics; there is recreational pools, slides, and that sort of thing; there are pools that are used for competition swimming; and then there are pools that are used for fitness activities. There are very few things of that nature that you can do out in the ocean. You can't really hold competitions on the beach for swimming. You can't train kids to swim safely. You can't train lifeguards. You certainly can't do therapeutic aquatics in an ocean environment. You really need a pool to do that.

So one of the things we're going to look at is what is the magnitude of the need in this community? What is the magnitude of the desire for doing these things? Because it is a difficult undertaking. A pool is not like making a baseball field where you just flatten it out and make a mound with a backstop. A pool, obviously, requires a lot of mechanical equipment, a lot of sophisticated filtration systems. There's a lot of expense involved, and the expense doesn't end when you finish construction. You have to start to operate it. So what we want to at least be able to do is, if that's a direction the community wants to go, we're prepared to assist you in understanding what those costs might be and, you know, we want the community to make that decision.

One other area that we need to look at, you know, what are the special needs of the citizens of this community in terms of Parks and Recreation, both with disabilities of all forms? And so we want to make sure we're addressing all the needs of this community, not just the needs of the typical citizen.

Finally, just a couple considerations that will go into the final preparation of this report. As I say, it's going to be comprehensive, so we want to examine how the Parks and Recreation Department operates. Do they have the tools they need to do the job that we've been asking them to do? And that's administratively, do they have the right software? Does the registration system work well for both users and for the people delivering programs? We want to talk about your policies. Do the policies work to the benefit of the citizens of Oak Island? Do they need to be amended or adjusted? We're going to take a very close look at revenues and expenditures. We have data that takes us back about five years that shows us how you've been spending your money, how you've been allocating it, both on a fee basis and a subsidy basis. We want to try to project that out into the future so that we can make concrete plans about how you're going to operate this system ten years out.

And should, as a consequence of this study, we determine that the community would at some point in the future like to look at a capital investment, you know, be it a gymnasium, be it a new ball field, be it a new park, we want to project what those costs are going to be, so again, you can have a clear basis for making planning for commitments of money over time. And then finally we're going to talk to you about phasing, and essentially we need to know what is the first priority of this community, what's its second priority? How do we implement these priorities over a ten, or fifteen, or twenty year period? Again, all for the purposes of planning.

That's the study. It took me a little longer than 20 minutes, but I almost got there. So, we're going to take the lights, and I'm going to sit down, and get out the pen, and I'm going to open the floor to questions, comments, thoughts. Go right ahead. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: (Comment off mic.)

MR. SPEARS: Yes, yes. Our charge is everything within the city limits, and also anything that is within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of Oak Island, which at this point is essentially Oak Island proper, the island, what we talk about as the mainland, moving up to 211, and then the annexed areas. So yes, we're looking at all of that. Yes.

AUDIENCE: (Comment off mic.)

MR. SPEARS: Well, according to at least the agreement that was presented to the city in 2006, they have agreed to provide, as I said, about 430 acres of land that is dedicated to parks and recreational use. Now, that's--and Jerry, you may want to clarify the exact terms of that agreement, but essentially it's for parks and recreational use, and I presume the city would have a role in its development, design, and administration. In addition to that, I think there's another four or five hundred acres of Corps of Engineer-designated wetlands, in most cases, adjacent to these lands that have been set aside for parks, which would also be available for not structured activities, but certainly hiking and recreational activities. So--have I essentially got that correct, Jerry?

MR. WALTERS: Yes, that's correct. That's right, and one thing to mention is that any of the development, the Williamson tract is an example, but the other areas that have been annexed will have provide parks and recreation as well as other infrastructure as a part of any normal development. Our regulations call for that right now.

MR. SPEARS: Is that good?

AUDIENCE: (off mic) Yes, we're going to be talking about …

MR. SPEARS: We will certainly look at that because it's part of Oak Island now.

AUDIENCE: The question was, are we going to be thinking about the new areas in addition to what's out here on the island, I shouldn't say us because I don't know where everybody is from, but --

MR. SPEARS: Absolutely. I think it's helpful when you look at that tract of land to look at it in the context of the time frame that's been agreed to for the development. As I understand it, the proposal is a 20-year development plan, and that means the full build-out could be at least 20 years, and there are opportunities within the agreement to extend that time frame. So under the best of economic conditions, you know, they're not going to develop the whole thing day one. It's going to be several years before they get going on it, and certainly under the present economic circumstances, we wouldn't blame anyone for taking a go-slow approach. And I'm pretty sure that would be their approach right now. The number I've heard is maybe 250 homes in the first five years in that development, and that's considerably less than the overall build-out. But, they're obligated as a part of that agreement, when they put in the infrastructure, to make available those lands that they've agreed to dedicate to parks and rec. So that will become available for their use, and it will present an opportunity for planning. Yes.

AUDIENCE: Will you be meeting with local communities and the county to coordinate our efforts with theirs?

MR. SPEARS: Absolutely. In today's meetings, we had representatives from the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, and help me, Amanda, who else came from Parks and Recs Departments? We had Boiling Springs Lake, and Fort Caswell came by. We made invitations to almost all of the adjoining communities, their Parks and Recreation Departments and their Town Manager to assist us. I think you may know Brunswick County's just completed their own Parks and Rec Master Plan study. We have a copy of that and we are looking for opportunities to share and partner with them in some of their initiatives. So, absolutely. Yes. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: Let me get this straight now. Are we going to put all this stuff over there?

MR. SPEARS: No.

AUDIENCE: Let me finish my question.

MR. SPEARS: Certainly.

AUDIENCE: We're going to keep everything here, though, that we have?

MR. SPEARS: I would think, as of today, we're just here to find out what the citizens of Oak Island want to do. Now what I would suggest is you have a lot of facilities on the island, and I don't think, you know, I don't think anybody is suggesting anything will happen to them. In fact, we've identified in the past that there's a lot of on-island facilities that could use enhancement. For example, we did studies of this facility, which is fully in need, I think identified, to expand this particular facility.

AUDIENCE: Understand what we have on the island too.

MR. SPEARS: That's what I just said. Absolutely.

AUDIENCE: So that answers my question.

MR. SPEARS: Sure.

AUDIENCE: How much of the previous study that was done in 2006, with the plans that hung in the aisle of the rec center that we currently have here, are those plans going to be used at all, or is that consultation and those fees that were spent that time going to be scrapped, and we're starting over, or are we going to utilize those plans as well?

MR. SPEARS: I think it's our intention to utilize all of those plans. We made the recommendation--in fact we gave the town of Oak Island a couple of options. One was replacing this facility with a new one, one was adding on to it. We don't think the need that we identified then has changed, and, you know, we identified that you could use a gymnasium. You needed expanded space for aerobics. You needed meeting rooms. And you needed some sort of aquatics facility on the island. We still think that need exists, and it's our expectation that it would be included in our recommendations for the new master plan. But by the same token, we don't want to necessarily preclude any choices that the citizens of Oak Island now might want to make in that regard. We think they're good plans. It's a good recommendation. On the other hand, that was 2007. We are in a vastly different economic situation now. And I think we understand that we all are thinking more carefully about how we allocate resources. So I think to the extent that we feel that was a good recommendation, we will certainly review that recommendation. It will be a part of this

study. But I think also the citizens of Oak Island have another opportunity to rethink that, based on changes in circumstances. Thank you. Other thoughts?

AUDIENCE: Hi. I have a comment and a question. First, I thank you for that excellent summary and I just, from a personal observation, I've always been astounded that the breadth and scope of services that are available through our Parks and Rec Department is pretty extraordinary. Except for base jumping, I think we're pretty well covered, and I think mixed martial arts is going to be an upcoming event in town council meetings. But my real question is, in benchmarking of costs for, let's say--you were talking about phasing out. You mentioned Carolina Beach and a couple other similarly sized communities. Can you just illuminate for me how does one compare, let's say, the costs of a program at another town and use that to benchmark appropriate costs or estimates for our plans, or can you?

MR. SPEARS: I think there are some metrics that I would have more confidence in than others. For example, sort of understanding how much park another community has as a comparison or proportion of the population, I think is a useful guideline for us. I think looking at the range of program offerings that another program has and comparing it to the range of program offerings that are offered here is useful to us. I think, and something I didn't mention, we're also looking for good ideas and lessons learned. So, we would really want to talk to these communities about the successes they have had with their programming and with their facilities, and also the difficulties they have had. And hopefully, if we can avoid difficulties, then that's to our benefit.

There are other things I think you rightly point out, that are more difficult to compare. Simply asking them, you know, well, how much do you pay for your Parks and Recreation services, what's your annual budget, could be useful to us, but I think we're going to have to be very careful about how we made that comparison. We need to understand, well, perhaps how is it as a percentage of your overall expenditures, for example? What is the ratio of fees you charge for users to the subsidy that the municipal government provides to that facility? And there, you're trying to understand the balance between how much you expect the user of services to pay, versus how much you expect the citizens to contribute to that benefit.

I think wherever we can make comparative measures, perhaps on a percentage basis, I would have more confidence. I don't want to simply say, hey, Carolina Beach, how much are you spending, and should we spend more than you? I don't think--I would agree with you, I don't know that that's particularly useful to us. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I notice that most of the peer communities that you had in North Carolina were beach communities, most of them nearby. I don't know what the population of those three towns are as they compare to Oak Island, whether they're very comparable or what, but I think it would be helpful, not so much the geographic location of the peer communities as being on the coast that would be helpful, but the population. I would like to look at towns that are our population, whether they're located on the coast or inland. Just a suggestion.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. No, I think it's a very good suggestion. I'm going to make a note here for myself. This is a question to the steering committee, and we said, you know, what do you think are peers of Oak Island? And most municipalities have peers they look to for all sorts of comparisons. It's not just Parks and Recreation. It's police staffing, it's garbage collection, it's fire protection. You know, you're always looking for ways to compare yourself to see how you're doing in relationship to others. And I think we're still trying to find the right three or four communities that we want to compare Oak Island to. I don't think necessarily that the four that we put up on the screen are those that we ought to be looking at, and I appreciate your suggestion that it isn't necessarily that it needs to be a beach community.

I do think, though, clearly there are some unique qualities of a beach community that are hard to replicate in other communities, not the least of which is the ocean. That, in and of itself, is by definition, a recreational amenity, and therefore if we look at other communities, say in the center of North Carolina that don't have those kinds of opportunities, then the speculation is, they would be compensating by providing other kinds of services that would give equal opportunities to their citizens. So it might be a useful comparison, but I think we have to understand how do they make their choices.

And the other thing that we talked about a lot in some of our earlier sessions today is, it's a little harder for sort of traditional beach communities, particularly one like Oak Island, to really understand the nature of its population because, you know, we do work for Raleigh and Cary, for Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and they can tell us pretty much what their population is, how it's growing, where they live. They can give us a lot of data on it. Whereas Oak Island and other beach communities, you certainly have a full time, year-round resident population, but you also have at least two other kinds of seasonal people who come. People who rent on a weekly or monthly basis and then are gone. You also have day-trippers, people who just come for a day. All of these folks consume services in this community and they have an impact on traffic, and on many of your resources, including the use of Parks and Recreation facilities.

One of the difficulties a beach community has is it's pretty difficult to gauge that impact and also what their needs are, and then determine how you, as a community, want to respond to those needs. That is something we never talk about in Raleigh or Cary. It just wouldn't be an issue for us. In Cary we're talking about how to get rid of all the Yankees, right? It's a different problem, actually more nettlesome.

So I think I would like to endorse the part of your suggestion that says, well, maybe we ought to get one non-beach community for a comparison. I like that idea. So let's do that. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: One of the things we do for recreation here that isn't done in a park is riding a bicycle. We also walk. A number of us have golf carts that are street legal, some of us have golf carts that are not street legal, and then there's all the summer rentals of mopeds and those little three-wheel vehicles. Other than a section of Oak Island Drive that has sidewalks, that's the

only safe place to walk. And there really is no safe place, especially in the summer time, to ride a bike unless you're on a side street. And I was just wondering if there was anything taken into consideration on, you know, one of the major recreation forms, which is bike riding, as well as all these low-speed vehicles and how they get from point A to point B. How do they get to the park safely?

MR. SPEARS: A couple things, first of all, you said is there anything being taken into consideration. Right now it is, absolutely. No, in fact, we talked about it earlier. And again, I want to stress, we're starting today. This is, in many respects, what you're telling us is what we're going to look at. And in fact, this came up today. There's a couple of things, and again, I may call upon Jerry to help flesh out some of the details, but there's already work underway to create a bike path that's going to run from the new bridge all the way to 211. Is that correct? And I think the right-of-way has been acquired, with the exception of a small patch of land, that big? No, it's bigger than that, isn't it? So that's underway. Now, there's some construction work involved in that, and I don't know the time frame or any of that, but I do know people are thinking about that.

AUDIENCE: That's going over the new bridge?

MR. SPEARS: Yes, over the new bridge, and it's designated for bikes. There's some conversation how other people can use it as well -- certainly for walking, jogging, probably will be germane. You also have a bike master plan study, and we've been asked to incorporate that into our work. We talked--the woman, yes, mentioned the previous study. This same issue came up. These common forms of exercises. One of the responses in that study was to provide an indoor elevated walking track, primarily for seniors in inclement weather, and for people who sometimes don't feel secure just walking the streets. So I think we would reexamine that recommendation. But it seems like a sound one. And frankly, if you decide at some point in this community that you want to build a gymnasium, an elevated walking or jogging track within that space is a real economical addition to those plans. So it depends on if you decide to take the first step, which is building a gymnasium. But once you do that, you know, you almost get the rest of it for pennies on the dollar. But, we'll simply continue on. Please, whatever else would you like to talk about? Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I don't really have a question. I just want to make a comment. I've had the opportunity with Parks and Recreation to teach water aerobics in an outdoor pool for the last couple summers, and with the population that we currently serve and the population that we know we're going to continue to serve, know that we need an indoor aquatic facility for therapeutic, warm-water aquatics, in addition to lap swimming and training and competition.

MR. SPEARS: Can you give us a sense of the kinds of numbers you're talking about in terms of need? How many therapists would you say, and how many people need to be served in this community?

AUDIENCE: It's a growing number. I don't know, Carolina, you might have a better understanding of the numbers. But I can tell you that in water aerobics classes, you would typically -- we could fill the pool if we had a bigger pool. I mean they had to max out the outdoor facility that we had available at about 15 or so people per class, and very limited access to even an outdoor pool here. Very limited, very limited time frame, and of course, we were very lucky this summer, but easily very weather-dependent. We do serve, I'd say average, hundreds of people a day in various capacities in a pool environment. We have a growing number of seniors. We have people who are rehabilitating from surgeries and illness and injuries that need warm water. We have people that simply can't tolerate colder water. But we also have people that like to lap swim in cooler temperatures and enjoy water aerobics as well, deep water, et cetera. So an indoor facility, however it turns out, is something that I think needs to stay on the books that we need to have, and it needs to be one of the first considerations for facilities.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. We'll certainly take that as a strong recommendation. One of the things that we're going to do, we want to look at the subscription to programs and activities, and particularly we want to focus on the over-subscription. I think that's what you're describing. And the definition there would be, if I added classes, I could continue to fill them, and I think that's your experience. Unfortunately, we see that across the board right now in Parks and Rec here on Oak Island. There are any number of offerings that they have that are always fully subscribed pretty much year round, wouldn't you say, Kellie? So when we start to differentiate, where is the greatest need? What are the relative costs? What's the cost-benefit of the particular approach? We can develop some guidelines. I think as you well know, regardless of the need, a

therapeutic pool or a competitive pool is a big ticket expense. The one thing I can tell you that is at least the virtue, speaking in favor, particularly of therapy pools, is if you look at the revenue they return, they're a much better bargain, say than other kinds of pools, particularly because many of the therapies you describe are compensated by insurance companies, by Medicare, at rates that make sense in terms of supporting that sort of facility. If it's thought of as being a therapy, then that is a revenue stream that you can count upon.

So we look at the economics of that, but there is a pretty good argument that says, a therapeutic pool might, in time, be actually for some communities, a revenue generator. So we would certainly look at that on your behalf. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I want to add a comment to the lady who spoke about the bike paths. I live in South Harbor, and I walk every day for health reasons, and it's really pretty hazardous because there's no place to walk but on the roads. We do have the boat ramp over there, so very often people are towing boats that are wider than the lane and if we have somebody going in the opposite direction, it sure doesn't leave much room for the walkers, or bikers.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I just wanted to say one more thing to what my summer instructor was saying, because the outside pool isn't usable now because it's colder, we've been going over to BCC to the therapy pool. The instructors are about 20 years old and are

absolutely clueless as to what we need for older people that are trying to stay fit. And so we--anybody that says that we can get it at BCC, right now, we can't.

MR. SPEARS: Still, it's a marvelous asset to have in the community which you didn't have two years ago. It's not that we wouldn't want that there. One of the things--by the way, along those same lines, we passed some information along to Kellie about the design of therapy pools, and in fact, of all pools, a number of recreational facilities, along with some cost numbers, so she has access to a lot of information that would begin to describe how you would begin to consider one of these kinds of facilities. Over here, please. Yes.

AUDIENCE: Well, on that same line. I do aquatic therapy, and I do have some inkling about how many people are going to need to be served in this area. And I've been over at BCC working as well, and seeing how that facility works. And there are a lot of things that could be different about how the pool could be set up to serve the type of community that we have here, which is, as the lady was saying, a large percentage of seniors. And being that that facility--it's a wonderful facility for swimming. They've got great--it's available for meets and for the swim teams and the kids at the college, so it's a great asset to the community, but what is not available is additional warm water space. The warm water pool there is always full. And the classes are always full. And as she was saying, they're totally subscribed, and if we had even more senior classes, we could fill them all up. So I think I agree that the warm water pool is really needed, and with the medical facilities in the area, would be widely utilized.

MR. SPEARS: Absolutely. We finished--about the same time we were working with you, we were working on a comprehensive master plan for the city of Raleigh's aquatics department, and recommended that they locate therapy pools in all quadrants of the city of Raleigh, and that they have a close association with the major medical centers. And in fact, that has not been implemented, but again, they're victims of the same economic downturn as you all are. But the hope with that is that there would be a kind of teaming between private medical industry and the municipality, to develop a facility jointly for the delivery of health services. Certainly, we would recommend a strategy of that sort for this community should we elect to go in that direction. And as you both have pointed out, there appears to be a legitimate need, so we would certainly look at that very seriously. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: I guess my concern mostly stems from the operational costs. You had touched on this in your introduction. The capital outlay to build multimillion dollar facilities is typical easily come by. But often what I see happening in communities is the operational deficits take over quite quickly. To look at inland comparisons to coastal comparisons, you know, we can look at North Myrtle Beach's aquatic facility as a improper comparison to an inland facility. And, you know, now they're posting $800,000 a year in deficits. I think the taxpayers would be concerned about that, and certainly the interest and the need is there, but I guess my question is for the number of people who would actually use the aquatic facility, what are the dollars? What is the dollar amount that the community is willing to spend for them to have access to that facility?

MR. SPEARS: Those are good questions. Let me try to--go ahead if you'd like a little more, or let me respond to a little bit of that. Clearly, there are private entities that operate--and by the way, your question was specific to aquatic facilities and their operation, is that true? Or all facilities? Like I say, the issue you describe is magnified in an aquatic facility, because you need specialized training, life guards, the equipment needs, constant maintenance, and you have very high energy costs. So if you're going to pay attention to operating costs, the place to do it is in an aquatic center, so we can use that as an example.

I was hoping this would show up on the screen, but it's not. This is a hypothetical aquatic center that we've developed. Essentially complete cost forward, including operating costs--I'll be happy to show it to you after we get done here. When you're a public entity, a municipality, you make decisions about how you fund things, and that includes your operating costs. And typically, you know, you have two choices. There's some minor choices you can include in there, but you're either going to pay for it out of the operating budget of the municipality, or you're going to pay for it with fees or some combination of the two. And every municipality makes its own judgment about what that balance is going to be. There are some municipalities who feel as though they have a civic responsibility to guarantee access to services to all the citizens, and therefore, they minimize fees. There's other communities that really believe in a pay-as-you-go.

So for aquatic facilities, we've calculated the return rate. In other words, how much of what you take in in fees covers your operating expenses? And I can tell you right now, the city of Raleigh used to be at a 55 percent rate, and that's because traditionally, they have favored suppressing user fees and in making the ability of aquatic facilities for all the citizens. We are talking with them about enhancing the amenities and trying to elevate that number to maybe 65 or 70 percent, but they're still always looking at it as a subsidized system.

There are other communities that our aquatic consults have worked with, who don't do these facilities unless it's a break-even. So they have set their fees at a rate that's going to suggest that they will cover all their operating costs, and there are in fact a few communities, particularly with recreational pools which can command higher fees, that are on a--they're making money off of this, and they are returning that back in to cover their bonds.

So it can be done. But I think because the magnitude of costs in operating an aquatics facility is so high, you really have to do the homework on it and you have to take--I have to tell you, this is the most important part of it. You have to have the political will to set fees so that you can make money, and I've got to tell you, sometimes in a democracy, citizens get a little upset if they think their government's trying to make money off of them through user fees. And what we see is not a financial problem, but a political problem. Yes.

AUDIENCE: And it comes down to sheer numbers, too.

MR. SPEARS: Yes.

AUDIENCE: It comes down to sheer numbers too, and if you're talking about, let's say, a million dollar operational expenditure, you're talking about 1650 people at $50 a month to break even. So even at a 50 percent subsidy, that's still $25. But I'm not sure that there's 1600 people out of 9000 residents who would participate in that, particularly now that the college put in a facility.

MR. SPEARS: And I think that says a couple of things. One, the economics of a therapy pool are better. First of all, I don't know if you're going to have any advocates of competition pools out there? Raise your hands if you wish, but competition pool will always lose money. There's no way that you can dedicate that much water to those few swimmers that you can charge enough money to pay for that pool. At the other end of the spectrum, therapy pools can make money, again, because we have a compensation system which recognizes that as medical treatment, and therefore the margins to make that work are much better. Recreational pools are some place in the middle, because they are a draw, an attraction, particularly for families looking for entertainment. And so what we see is, if I had to guess, a therapy pool's going to make money, a competition pool's going to lose money, recreational pool, depending on how you work your numbers, but you're at risk there And what we can do for you all is show you the numbers, and let you all decide what you'd like to do. Excuse me, this gentleman I know has been waiting for a few minutes. Yes, sir

AUDIENCE: I just have a comment. The aquatic center should be, I think, number one on the list because we do not have one. That's all I want to say.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. This one, and then you, ma'am. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: Let me ramble here for a little while.

MR. SPEARS: Certainly.

AUDIENCE: I think a pool is an important asset to the town. I like to swim. In another place, in another land, I joined a gym that had a pool. So the correspond, we have a gym. I think the pool should be behind this building. Now, take that aside. How big does a pool have to be to be adequate for the needs? The lap pool, let's start with that.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. There's two answers I can give you right now to that question. The first is, I don't know, because we really have to assess the needs of this community. The second is, we can look at what we proposed to go out behind this building, but I think in that instance, the pool that we proposed was not necessarily designed to meet the need of the community. It was the biggest pool that you could fit on this piece of property without running out of land.

AUDIENCE: Did that include the rest of the building?

MR. SPEARS: Yeah, I mean there were other things, but--

AUDIENCE: I'm talking purely pool.

MR. SPEARS: We would have to do a complete assessment.

AUDIENCE: Well, a standard 75 meter pool? Have I got the wrong numbers? Whatever the standard is. Twenty-five meter, you're right. I'm sorry, 75 feet or something.

MR. SPEARS: Off the top of my head, there's--in this community there's been expressed a need for competitive water. You know, we've talked about 25 yards, which is the high school distance for double--back and forth. Six lanes was something that was requested. I'm sure competitive clubs would like to see eight lanes. So I think that's sort of the entry level for competition. If we're talking about a therapy pool, I think there's clearly--we've certainly heard evidence that there's a need for that. Typically you'd be looking, 25 yards or that, maybe 40 feet wide, something along that nature. Simply because we think that pools need a recreational component that can appeal to families and to younger users of aquatic facilities who don't necessarily enjoy lap swimming, also kids who need much more closer supervision, that a recreational component is something that you ought to consider. So to put all those things together, you know, you're talking about a building that might be somewhere about 20,000 square feet, 25,000 square feet. Without doing the analysis, I can't tell you if that would meet all of your needs. I know it would help you with your needs. Okay. 20,000 square feet. I could tell you what that would be in construction costs--I see the press is sitting here, so I'm not going to do that. It's a considerable investment for a community, let's put it that way.

AUDIENCE: How about incrementally. Build a pool in a building that might be open air, for instance, so that it could be used for a longer period of time, but not in the dead of winter? Like the old--there was a motel in Carolina Beach that had --

MR. SPEARS: You could do an outdoor pool. You can step up in grades, okay. You could put a bubble over the top of it and it's going to be perfect until the first hurricane.

AUDIENCE: No, no. I'm not talking about a hurricane. I'm talking about--this is on the beach in Carolina Beach, and I'm assuming it's still there. They had a motel that had a fairly large pool and it had a brick wall around it, open, and they put sliding glass doors in for ventilation, which you would need in the summer time. But it doesn't have to be that, it could be somebody else's idea. There's probably a better idea, but something you can start with a pool that could be used most of the year around here, with heated water.

MR. SPEARS: It's certainly an option.

AUDIENCE: And then put a roof on it.

MR. SPEARS: You can do that. Long-term, you end up paying more money to do it that way, but if that's the only way you can get there, in increments, that's an approach you can take. No question about it. Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: That brings me back to the comparison between like populations, that if we could really pick out two--if we wanted to focus in on the aquatic center question in particular, pick out two or three communities our size, maybe somewhere down in the Pinehurst area that has a large senior center, senior population-

MR. SPEARS: That would be important.

AUDIENCE: --retirement, something similar to us in demographics as well as population, see what their aquatic center facilities are, how they're being used, how they're being paid for and how they're satisfied with them. Like, what would they do different if they had a chance to do it all over again, what would they change? So that we have the benefit of what everybody else has--we learn by their mistakes.

MR. SPEARS: Do you have a suggestion? Anybody here? I'm trying to think. I know of Knightdale outside of--in Johnston County. I think they're a little larger than you. Pardon? I would love suggestions. We want to find the right comparisons, so we'll take a look at the -- we did the Moore Wellness Center in Pinehurst, which is a 25 yard--25 meter pool, which also has a wellness component to it, but I don't think that's a fair comparison, but we can call some people down there and see if they've got some suggestions for us. I don't know where we're going next, but apparently over here.

AUDIENCE: Yes. I have a comment about the competitive pool. I understand that the Baptist Assembly had one. They did have a swim team there this year, and I saw in the newspaper that they offered swim lessons for children.

MR. SPEARS: Yes, in fact, they were with us in the first session this morning and talked a little bit about their offerings. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: I have a suggestion as far as a comparison, not direct--maybe not a direct comparison, but my parents moved to Hot Springs Village, Arkansas some 25 years ago.

MR. SPEARS: My in-laws live in Hot Springs, Arkansas, so I know it.

AUDIENCE: Okay. And they have a similarly large retirement population. The main attractions there are golf courses, of which they now have seven I think, and they also have seven lakes. So there's some comparison there. But they have one outdoor pool and at least one indoor pool, and the indoor pool also has a lot of the aspects of this facility.

MR. SPEARS: And they're also a tourist community, aren't they? Don't they have seasonal visitors?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

MR. SPEARS: That's a great suggestion, and I can get my--well, Frank's my ex-father-in-law, but we still like each other. I could get him to do a little leg work for me. That's terrific, thank you.

AUDIENCE: Yeah, and they have a property owner's association which controls that. They charge for the use of--certainly the use of--it's an aquatic facility and a gymnasium with weight-lifting and a walking path.

MR. SPEARS: Great, that's a good resource. Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I actually had a question about the economic viability of putting a pool much closer to the beach and encouraging the beach clubs to use it, and the hotels to use it, and the people in the summer to use it and pay for it, basically, and covered enough in the summertime that parents could throw their kids in there and keep them out of the sun and keep them happy and shut up, and then take it over with us on Oak Island in the winter to use like you're suggesting and have a lot of it paid for by the tourists. At least it's a thought.

MR. SPEARS: Oh, I think it's a great thought. Back when we did the study for this building and we proposed a pool, the reason it was here was because this is where the town had land. And as much as I think your idea's a really good one, my guess is one of the things that really drives the decision of where to put something like this is the price of land. Doesn't land get more expensive as we get closer to the water? So the only downside to that--we're talking about a building type which is in and of itself inherently expensive, and so to make that equation work, it helps you to get cheaper land. The virtue of going here, you already own the land, and so that's what helped make that equation work. I think it's a great idea. I especially like this idea that, you know, you throw the kids in there, I'm with you. If you could make the numbers work, that would be a perfect idea. I'm just concerned that it would be tough to make the numbers fly. Yes.

AUDIENCE: A central location.

MR. SPEARS: Yes, this is an interesting issue for you, because Oak Island is extraordinary. You have this great long expanse that's incredibly narrow, so the question of where you put things always becomes an issue for you, I suspect. You put it dead in the middle so everybody can get to it. Or do you do two and split them to either end? It's a really difficult challenge for you all. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I just want to comment. The other thing that needs consideration on the pool was the fact of the cutting down of trees and also the availability of parking. And so that's another consideration is that we don't want to clear off any more trees off the island in order to provide a parking lot for something like that, and when the study was done, there were several locations, including off of Middleton Street, which the connector would be, which would be also a nice location once the bridge goes through. So it is about the trees and the environment as well as the availability for the parking, and so that's why, in the original plans in 2007, those studies were done and pretty much completed with the existing property that we had at that time. So I like the idea that you're going to keep that in consideration, in addition to the other information that you're gathering from the newly annexed areas.

MR. SPEARS: Sure. Great. Okay. I'm looking for hands. Anyone? Going once. Go ahead. There we go, thank you. Yes.

AUDIENCE: To move away from the aquatic center and just the exercise-related facility that we have here. This facility serves a multitude of different purposes for many different organizations, but it's quickly outlived its purpose in terms of serving the exercise participants. In the weight room across the hall, there's--I don't know what the square footage is, but eight people in that room is a crowd. And the ninth person begins to become a little bit dangerous when somebody is stretching and swinging a bar around. You really have to--your head really has to be on swivel watching who's doing what, or you're going to get knocked beside the head. Modifying this building, expanding it, or changing the rooms, swapping the rooms for purposes or things, it seems to me that would be very cost effective to do that, but certainly the resistance room, the weight room, ought to be expanded a little bit.

MR. SPEARS: Yes, and again, something else that you're welcome to take a look at. We have that whole report with me here today, and we recommended program changes that would expand virtually every one of those functions and give you new functionality. One of the biggest problems I think you have here is you have single purpose rooms that are trying to do too many things that they were never designed to do. So, you know, we can meet in here and have a public forum, but it's not really a very good room for a public forum. The acoustics are kind of bad. And the aerobics folks can come here, but the floor is really tough on shins, and they're going to be playing music, and that music permeates the rest of the building. And then an hour later, they're going to have to change out and the quilting folks are going to be in here doing something else. And that's pretty much the use of all the rooms in this center throughout the day.

I think one of the things that, when we talk with staff, they are trained professionals who are responsible for delivering recreational services, and yet they spend a lot of their day moving furniture. And so somehow it doesn't seem like you're making the best use of the really valuable professional resource. And part of the idea of this recommendation was let's get a room that's really good for aerobics, for pilates, that has the right kind of floor, that has acoustic isolation so we're not disturbing other meetings. Let's get you a gymnasium. Let's have an expanded weight room where we do have the kinds of clearances you need for that sort of use. And I think that was the intention there.

And we gave you, as I recall, several different options of size, so pick the one that suits your pocket book. Again, that was two years ago when we all felt a lot more optimistic about the future than sometimes we do today. But not denying anything that you said. You're absolutely right. Your anecdotal analysis of the problems here is dead in line with what we viewed in our assessment. No question about that. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I think as the community grows, we're going to need recreation facilities in different areas of our community, more on the west end, which I assume will be building up more when the new bridge comes in. Something on the mainland, things here on the east end of the island. So I think you mentioned earlier about spot centers, and I thought that sounded like a really good concept.

MR. SPEARS: And I think your thought about what the bridge is going to provoke at that side of town is probably quite accurate. Something's going to happen there that's going to be very interesting at least. There will be good things and there will be things that no one expected would happen, but it's going to be a big change for you all. Did I see another hand. Yes, ma'am, please.

MS. ALEXANDER: I'm Charlotte Alexander. I work for Brunswick Senior Resources. We do the senior lunch here at the rec center. And I know that, like a commercial kitchen and all those kinds of things were in the original plan that you all did, and I just want to say that I wrote down some statistics--I just wanted to say the numbers out loud so that people would realize what we need here.

In fiscal year 2008, we served 5229 meals and we sent--and we also sent out 4267 homebound meals, meals on wheels. So--and we're working in a kitchen that probably would not be sufficient for most homes.

MR. SPEARS: I think that was our assessment as well.

MS. ALEXANDER: And, you know, we need file space, and we need cabinet space, and I know that we are not part of the Recreation Center. We are one of the community services that use the Recreation Center. But they use it a lot too, and sometimes there'll be two things going on in the kitchen at once, and it's just difficult. And the Rec Center, I will say this. I plan on staying here all my senior years, because this Rec Center does so much. I'm already there--I know, but the rest of them--does so much for their seniors. I have never--I don't want to live any place else.

MR. SPEARS: That's wonderful to hear.

MS. ALEXANDER: And they need the facilities to continue their services.

MR. SPEARS: Thank you for that. That's one of the things we've been hearing over and over again. You go to a lot of communities in which there are constituencies that are sort of after each other. And one of the things we hear continually about Oak Island is everybody understands there are limited resources, but people are really working in the best interest of the senior community. There are a lot of things happening in relationship to youth. There are other constituencies whose needs are being addressed. The question, I think, for the future is, can you continue to maintain that level of service? As population changes, as the demographics shift, can you keep it up?

We started to receive some of the surveys back. A lot of people have written in comments, and one thing that we see recurring in those comments is what a terrific job your present staff at Parks and Rec does on behalf of the citizens of Oak Island, and that's to their credit. The question is, in the future, in ten years, in 20 years as the island grows, can you continue to count on dedicated staff making up the slack? At some point, you've got to think about what else needs to be done to support that staff, and so we want to try to help to give you the guidance to understand how to do that and how to plan for it. The worst expense an individual

or community can have is the one you didn't expect, and our job is to try to give you a reasonable idea of what the future holds for you. That's all we can do, and then you all need to make up your minds about how you want to expend your resources.

But I agree with you, a commercial kitchen would really help your operation. No question about that. Other thoughts? Other comments? Yes, sir. Sure.

AUDIENCE: Are there any thoughts for additional boat ramps on the island or on the new--the new mainland portions of the island?

MR. SPEARS: Well, again, the process starts tonight, so yeah, we ought to talk about that. Again, we're assessing everything that Parks and Rec does. One of the things they do are boat ramps, not only speed boats, motor boats, but also canoes, kayaks. That's a part of their mandate. We've mapped them. We know where most of them are. Kellie, isn't a boat ramp sort of happenstance, where you have an opportunity they've just sort of been installed, or has there been a lot of forethought in where you've placed them?

MS. BEESON: I'm sorry. Mainly what we've put in lately would be the canoe and kayak accesses, and there certainly are plans for boat ramps, but they have not come to fruition yet.

MR. SPEARS: It'll be a part of the things we look at, for sure. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: I want to revisit the bicycle path, walking issue just one more time. I ride a bicycle also, east and west end, and sometimes onto the mainland too, and one of the things I've noticed is that from time to time one of the people that I ride with needs to use the restroom. Some type of restroom besides a portalet out at the west end would be beneficial, but also with that is water fountains. You know, there's one out at the butterfly garden on 54th Street or so, on Yacht, which is handy, but it gets a little hot in the summertime and riding a bike --

MR. SPEARS: We had a similar comment earlier today, and particular in conjunction with what you're asking for, they requested ADA accessible facilities as well. So that's certainly something that we already have on our list of things to look at. Okay. Well, it looks like we're getting close. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I wondered how much thinking there's been, or how much looking at other beach communities, not the same size, in particular, but just how they use their beach. I mean, I'm thinking like what you're saying about exercise and the exercise room. Walking in sand is incredibly good exercise. It seems to me we just saw in California, the sort of stations where, you know, you pull yourself up and then you walk for a little bit further. It seems like once like every three weeks or a month for the season, building the biggest sand castle is a collective activity. I don't know what the answers are, but it seems like it would be really worthwhile if there's a way to find out how beaches are being used and drawing people and enjoying their beaches would be worthwhile here.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. I think it's a good suggestion. Now, Kellie, you've got a number of beach activities already. You've got beach walking, of course the turtle protection program, some of your summer camps employ beach exposures, environmental programs. Could you detail, while I write this down. Yes, we want to put you on the spot. What else are you doing on the beach, Kellie?

MS. BEESON: We also do our July Beach Day, we have sand volleyball as well.

MR. SPEARS: So we're doing some things. I think it's a great idea. What are other communities doing?

AUDIENCE: … California, and beach volleyball is just huge there and the 20-somethings or the 20 and 30-something, like office workers, and play on teams in beach volleyball at the end of the day, which--it's cheap. It's not like building a pool, but they sure looked like they were having a good time.

MR. SPEARS: You identified something else that I think is a challenge for us in performing this study. There are certain constituencies where either it's not hard to get their opinion--and I'm going to speak specifically of the seniors community, because by and large they're folks who have been around a while and understand that to get the things in life that you need to get, you need to state very clearly your needs and ask for them. So we never have any trouble, I think, with seniors telling us what kind of things would best support their lifestyles. Similarly, we've all had experience with kids. Many of us have been parents and we monitor their activities, we have a feeling for at least the kinds of things that interest kids when we start thinking about their recreational needs.

One of the hardest areas for us to target are the people who lie in between, and the age group you're describing, the twenties to the 35-year-olds, really ascertaining their interests, understanding what would really attract them in terms of recreational amenities, because there simply is such a diversity of things that they might consider doing.

AUDIENCE: If they all were in one pool is what I'm saying, you don't need to have all three--three different pools.

MR. SPEARS: Not necessarily. You're right, you can—

AUDIENCE: To start out with anyway.

MR. SPEARS: The water temperature, for serious lap swimmers it gets too warm for them in a pool designed for therapy, and vice verse, it's too cool--a lap swim temperature is really too cool for a lot of people, particularly who have circulatory problems. So you'd love to have two different temperatures if you could do it. But, as you're saying, if you're starting out, they could share for a while. Yes.

AUDIENCE: You also run into difficulty with kids and swimming lessons in a warmer pool, they tend to relieve themselves a little quicker and more regularly. So making sure they go to the bathroom before they enter into a warm water pool is more vital than usual.

MR. SPEARS: That's a good point. And there's a whole lot of other factors. For instance, three and a half feet, you can do swimming education with kids, but if you're trying to do warm water aerobics, you'd like it a little bit deeper because you want people to get off the bottom of the pool to work the upper body. So there's a whole lot of things, if you really want to get the right pool for the right need, there's a lot of things to take into consideration. I think what history has told us is there was a time period, sort of in American pool design in the seventies, when people believed we could design one pool and it would do everything that it needed to do. And I think what they determined is it didn't do anything very well. And so the trends have been to try and really specialize pool use so people get exactly the aquatic experience that they need to do the things they need to do. You run into a hard problem there, though, because that really does increase costs. I think is what you're suggesting, you have three pools instead of one.

I can tell you, we're designing one right now. It has lap lanes, it has recreation. It has a tot area. We couldn't fit in the therapy part, typically because of the water temperature. That would have to be a separate pool and they can't afford it now so they're deferring it to a later project. That's what happens. You make choices.

Other questions? Okay. Well, I'm going to pull the plug then, because I think it's time to go. But listen, thank you so much. Once again, I want to thank everyone for joining us tonight, it was a really terrific session and look forward to working with you as we move into the rest of this process. So, many thanks again.

Appendix 6: Notice of the January 28, 2010 Public Meeting

Oak Island Parks and Recreation Master Plan

January 28, 2010 @ 6:00 pm
Oak Island Recreation Center
3003 East Oak Island Drive

The Town of Oak Island is preparing a 10-year plan for the future of its recreation programs, parks, and recreation facilities in order to meet the needs of our community. We will be reviewing the survey results and gathering more public input at this meeting.

Your input is essential to the success of this effort. We will have cookies and refreshments so please plan to attend and share your ideas.

For more information please contact: Kellie Beeson
Director, Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department
910-278-5518

kbeeson@ci.oak-island.nc.us

Appendix 7: Notes from the January 28, 2010 Public Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN STUDY
AND PUBLIC FORUM
90 + people attended this meeting

Oak Island Recreation Center
January 28, 2010

MR. SPEARS: Welcome. Thank you so much for coming. It's always a great pleasure to be back in Oak Island again. My name is Roger Spears Mayor and I am a staff member with Szostak Design, and we've been working with y'all now since 2007, three years.

We first came here to do a feasibility study for the redevelopment of this building, made some recommendations, some of which I'm going to talk about a little bit later on tonight. And then we were invited back about eight months ago to start this Master Plan study. Got things rolling, actually, not until October. We've been working steadily since then, and tonight is the second of our public presentations of the work of the committee.

And I see a number of familiar faces. The folks that I know have been either to one of our stakeholder meetings, or one of the public meetings in the past, and so I'm welcoming you back again tonight. And it's good to have you with us. There are other folks who may be here, of course, for the first time.

And if I could, just for everybody's benefit, I'm just going to begin by just giving you a very brief overview of what this feasibility study is about, and where we're headed, where we stand right now, and when we start to see some conclusions to the study. So if I could, we're going to turn out the lights now, and as the Mayor said, if something comes up you want to ask a question about, just holler out. This is real informal and casual, but the lights will be out because some of the images are a little hard to see, but I'll hear you and respond.

We're going to try and wrap this up at about 7:30, and I think it's going to take me about 45 minutes to take you through all the information, because I've got a lot of things I want to share with you tonight. That'll give us a good 45 minutes to have a really good group discussion about the direction we want to take the Parks and Rec Department. And you know, nothing's holding us to 7:30. I've got a room, I'm going to be here all evening, so we can go on as late as you all want to. But to those of you who need to get on to something else, about 7:30 we'll take a break and let people step on out of the room.

And if you haven't seen Amanda Hall's fantastic cookies in the back, you need to get back there and try one before I get there, because I've already had three or four, and I could have a couple more before the night's over. So, and I think there's some cider as well. So please take advantage of that. So if we could have the lights, we'll get started.

Again, Oak Island Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study. Just to lead off, this is the initial mission statement for this Master Plan Study. It really has two pieces to it. We want to understand what is the nature of Oak Island's Parks and Recreation Department. That means its operations, its programs, its facilities, its parks, its attributes, and its shortcomings. Where does that department stand as of today. How does it operate? What does it cost you? What kinds of services is it delivering to you as the public?

And then we want to look into the future ten years. We want to understand where do you need to be ten years from now. What kinds of things does the department need to be doing? What facilities does it need to support itself? What kind of revenues can it generate? What sort of funding sources will be required to generate those programs and those revenues? And most importantly, how will this community, in fact, change, over that ten years? And do we anticipate growth? And what do we need to do to address that growth when it occurs?

So that's been our mission. As I say, we've been looking at this really since October, and we've been assisted, as the Mayor mentioned, by a real hard-working number of fellow-citizens. Formed a steering committee. J.C. Moss and Amanda Hall are serving as Co-chairs of that committee. And then we have seven members (Jodi Britton, Karl Busch, Bob Germaine, Kelley Germaine, Cynthia Tart, Vicki Soltis, Jeff Winecoff.) Kellie Beeson, who is the Director of Parks and Recreation Department and is the advisory member of that committee. We're all working together to try and understand this problem and come to the best possible plan that we can conceive for the future of the Parks and Rec department.

Let me talk briefly about the overall process. In our last meeting you may remember, we talked a little bit about demographics--where we saw this community going. And I think one of the things we talked about the last time--we are, I think, and nobody can question that--right now we are in an economic downturn and that we're not seeing a lot of growth. But we don't anticipate this will last forever. If we start to look at a ten-year time frame, we will anticipate growth to begin again. So we know the demographics of this community will change over that period, and we want to understand how it will change, where growth may occur, where it may not occur, and what kind of growth are you going to have? More families? More retired folk? Need to understand that, because that's the only way we can determine what kinds of services this community's going to need into the future.

We've done a needs assessment. We've looked at the kinds of recreational opportunities that would be valuable to this community. We have sought public input. We want to look at what are the new trends in recreation, and ultimately we're going to come up with a series of recommendations that then would be judged by Council and hopefully worked into the administrative policy for, as I say, the next decade.

Tonight, I want to focus on two issues. One is public input. Second is strategic planning. As many of you know, over the course of the last two months there's been a public survey that has been presented to the town of Oak Island. We have received those surveys back, and we have tabulated them, and a lot of what I want to talk to you about tonight are the results that we are starting to get out of those surveys.

So again, our subject is Oak Island, including the island proper, what was traditionally the mainland areas of town, and of course the newly annexed areas to the north. And our focus is the Parks and Recreation Department of that island. We've done a pretty extensive survey of your facilities already. We've walked all the parks. We've taken photographs. We sort of know where every facility is, what kind of shape it's in. We've done due diligence investigations on the parks both on the west side of the island, and across on the mainland.

Again, as I said, what I want to focus on tonight is to talk to you a little bit about what we're hearing from you, the public, first in the form of our public surveys. So let's talk a little about this, and hopefully many of you have seen this before, and I suspect many of you have filled it out and returned it to us. But, as the mayor mentioned, we distributed 9000 of these surveys, and they came through the mail to anyone who receives a water bill at Oak Island, or a recycling bill. And the intention there was to catch everyone who is either a homeowner or a permanent resident of Oak Island, to get their views in response to the questions that we presented about the Parks and Recreation Department.

Of those 9000, we got about 549 completed forms returned to us. That's a six percent return rate. And if you do surveys in municipalities of this sort very often, you look for at least a five percent return rate, so we were very encouraged to see six percent come in. We were hoping for ten. We didn't quite get there, but still, six percent was a very good response rate. We have recorded and documented all of the responses that have come to us, including all the written comments. Each committee member took 50 or 100 of the forms and by hand wrote down every written comment, and those were documented in the appendix of the final report. So if you filled in a copious comment about the Parks and Rec Department, rest assured it's been recorded and we will read it and we will enter it into our considerations.

I would mention, incidentally, that in all likelihood, very few teens were paying water bills in Oak Island, so none of them got the survey. We thought this was a great oversight. We took 30 surveys over to the teen center. We let those then fill those out so we could get their point of view on some of these issues. We're tabulating those results as I speak, frankly, and we'll be including that in an updated review of our information.

So let me take you through what we found out from the surveys. First question that we want to answer is, who responded to the survey. So let me give you a brief overview. By location, well over half of the people that responded say that they live east of Middleton and west of Yaupon. Twenty-eight percent west of Middleton. Only 6.1 percent on the mainland. We think this tracks pretty well with the population figures for those various areas, so we think we got pretty uniform response across the island as a percentage of population.

In terms of length of residency, your typical responder has lived here, the majority, 44 percent, somewhere between six and 15 years, so most of the people who responded to this survey know this place pretty well. Twenty-two percent, zero to five years. Another 16 percent, 16 to 25 years. So that also tells us that we've got a very knowledgeable group of people that responded to this survey.

Household type. Far and away the largest group responding consider themselves to be retired, either single or a couple. We have roughly equal measures of people who are couples with children or couples with no children, 21 percent no children, about 28 percent with children. And then smaller measures of other kinds of household types.

And then finally we asked the division between those that consider themselves full time residents and part time residents, and it's about 50:50, the nod going to the year-round residents.

So this is sort of the body of the respondents that helped us with this survey. There's a couple things that I think we can also talk about in terms of who responded. When you have 9000 surveys go out and about 600 come back, one of the things you know about the people responding is that they're highly motivated. So the views that they present to you in the survey come from a source that has a very strong opinion about the subjects being asked about. Now that opinion can have many different sources.

You know, many people, I would imagine, respond to surveys because they consider it their civic duty, which is admirable. But also, some people come because they have a special interest in the subject matter. So, for example, we're quite certain a lot of people filled out this survey and returned it because they consider themselves advocates of Parks and Recreation Department. It might be equally true that people who believe strongly to be critics of the Parks and Recreation Department, therefore they, too, were strongly motivated to return this survey.

As we looked at particularly the written comments, we could see that some people had very particular issues that they wanted to emphasize, and so therefore they were highly motivated to return that survey so they could talk to us about their special issue, and I'll give you two examples. There were a lot of people who are very interested in swimming pools, and they made sure that they wrote down in every opportunity, that they wanted to see a swimming pool in Oak Island. I can tell you there was almost an equal number of people who felt as though taxes were too high in Oak Island, and they also wrote that down for us.

So all that tells you is the people who respond to surveys have very strong opinions. People who don't respond to surveys are perhaps a little bit more ambivalent or a little too busy, that we don't necessarily get the views of the folks who don't hold strong opinions. So when we look at these survey results, we've got to understand they come from the periphery, from those folks who have strong opinions. And as we start to chart and look at where those opinions come from, it doesn't tell us where the consensus of the community is on any given issue, but it gives us a sense of where the locus of where that opinion might be. So we don't take these completely at face value, but neither -- we always understand that they reflect the boundaries within which the consensus of the community actual exists.

So, let's look at what the community tells us. Now, there's going to be a couple of slides here that are a little difficult to see, and in each case I'm going to blow it up and show you the information that I think is really pertinent. We asked people, okay, forget about Parks and Rec, what do you like to do as a recreational activity on your own? And we gave them about 25 options, and on

the basis of the percentage of respondents who participated in these activities, it was no real surprise, up at the very top is go to the beach. Okay. People who moved to Oak Island came here because there's a beach, because they like to go to the beach. And in fact, I think we're going to see over and over again tonight, things that relate to living at the beach tend to be very popular with people who live at the beach. So the first four, over 11 percent go to the beach; over nine percent like to go walking, presumably on the beach; bicycling, fishing--all of these issues tend to rank very high among residents of Oak Island.

In fact, let me zoom in on that. These are the top four again. Go to the beach, walking, bicycling, and fishing. So those are the most popular activities in Oak Island. So where are people doing these activities? Well, obviously, many are doing them in Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department facilities. And in fact, a lot of you visit the facilities of Oak Island. This is really an impressive number if you look at this chart. Eight percent said they had never gone to an Oak Island park or a recreational facility. Three percent aren't sure. I'm a little worried about them. It leaves 89 percent of your residents who responded to the survey who have visited at least one park in this community. That's an impressive number.

So everybody who responded has direct and immediate knowledge about how the Parks and Recreation Department operates. And in fact, the numbers allowed us to understand one of the most frequently visited Parks and Recreation facilities, and again, at the very top, and you'll see this time after time tonight, going to the beach ranks right at the very top. But shortly under that, going to The Point, the Oak Island pier, Middleton Park, and then fifth in that list is the building we're in, the Recreation Center.

And in fact, let me zoom in on that a little bit. Here you can see the top seven parks in Oak Island or facilities. So beach, The Point, pier, Middleton Park, Recreation Center, the Nature Center, Davis Canal crossover. So your fellow citizens value these particular park facilities. In particular, what do they think about them, because we have some very specific questions. Let me just take you through this. By the way, when we looked at a series of bar charts, we gave people the option of saying "never, sometimes, usually, always, no opinion, no answer." And so we watch the passage of the green bar, that's "always."

So first question. Are the parks convenient? Okay, by an overwhelming majority, almost 80 percent, people say they're just right, very convenient. Are the parks well maintained? Almost 30 percent said always well maintained; 53 percent said usually. So what that tells you is that 80 percent of the people who visit your parks think that they are usually very well maintained. Note the negative numbers. Sometimes or never, very low. I think that speaks really well for the way in which you all are managing your parks.

Similar question, but a highly important one, are your parks safe? Almost the same numbers, almost 75 percent. And the parks have the features that you need for recreational activities, again, about 80 percent. So it seems as though, in terms of how people grade your parks, you know, they're pretty impressed with the way they're working for you.

Similarly, we wanted to ask the same question, not about the parks, but about buildings and facilities. So buildings, obviously, a building like this or the Nature Center; facilities might be structured recreational areas like ball parks, soccer fields, things of that nature. We asked the same series of questions.

Are the buildings and facilities convenient to where you live? Almost 80 percent. Are they well maintained? Again, we're right up there. A little bit lower, you know, 78 percent. Are they safe? Again, the same kind of numbers, 70 percent. Do the buildings have needed features? A pretty good number. Are facilities and buildings large enough? Also a pretty decent response rate. One thing, though, that's worth noting as you look at this chart, and you track it from left to right. We're talking about convenient, well-maintained, safe--and we get to, do these things have the features we need, and you'll notice the favorables start to drop off ever so slightly, and the negatives start to come up. It's really interesting to see that. What people are telling us is we really like your facilities and we think that you're taking good care of them, but maybe they aren't everything we need, to do what we're doing. Now, these aren't serious numbers, you know, 11 percent say sometimes. But it's interesting that this percentage of sometimes shows up where it didn't at all here, so it's suggestive that maybe there's some things that we need to be thinking about in terms of your facilities.

How does the public rank your buildings, parks, and facilities? Okay. Here's a listing of every park, building, facility in Oak Island. There's a group at the top. These are the most valued facilities in Oak Island. These are the least valued. You'll notice Commissioner's Park, Tidal Wave Park down at the bottom. Does that mean these are bad parks? No. It means they're small parks. They serve a very narrow constituency. They're neighborhood parks, so as a natural consequence, there's a few people that live around them, they don't tend to get a lot of votes. But nevertheless, we can here identify 12 to 14 facilities that you have that by and large the public views very favorably, they consider very valuable to this community.

And once again, topping the list are things that relate to the beach. Out on the west, the Point Park, beach access points, the pier, and then almost immediately there under, this building that we're in, Middleton Park, boat ramps--very important to the community. And I sort of sense that there's an environmental interest here. We see the Nature Center here; we see kayaking, scenic trail, Davis Canal. So a broad range of interest, but people are very clear because in every analysis that we make of this, these same facilities keep rising to the top. So that's your parks and your facilities.

What about programs that the department offers? We asked first, how did people find out about Parks and Recreation? And, you know, as you might expect, word of mouth is a pretty popular way to find out about programs. The newspaper, brochures, website. We left a blank for other, 11 percent, and one who wrote in pointed out to us what other should have said. It should have said the sign out front, because--and you know, we never thought about it, but indeed that is the way that I find out what's going on in Oak Island when I drive into town. So we should have had that on our list.

We asked what are the programs in Parks and Rec that draw the most participation? And way and above all else, the weight room. Four percent of respondents, over, 4.4 percent of respondents utilize the weight room in this community. That's more than twice as high as any of the other classes in this facility, although these ranked fairly well. The other two things that people

participate in that are sponsored by the Parks and Rec are events or activities. So holiday events, music concerts -- it's very popular.

There's a group here that was no surprise to us. Anyone who spends some time in this building knows that every day there's an aerobics class. There are always senior activities going on. Over at the teen center there's youth activities. The kayak rental, that didn't necessarily surprise me. But yoga is also very popular. So we really see a group of activities and programs that are well subscribed, that people identify as being highly important to their recreational experience at Oak Island.

Again, we want to know more than just do you participate, what do you think of those programs? So we ask a whole series of questions. Again, same strategy as the last bar graph. Look for the green and the blue, because those are the most favorable responses. So, first question, I can find programs that interest myself or my family. And we're looking a little over--about 50 percent in the blue and green category of always or usually. That seems fairly good.

Next question is interesting, though. I may be interested in the program, but can I get into it. And that drops down appreciably. So, suggestive that sometimes it's difficult to get into the more desirable programs, possibly because they're over-subscribed, possibly because we don't have enough opportunities available for people.

Other aspects of programming, the registration seems to do fairly favorably. Oh, I may point out, the brown is no preference. And our analysis of that is there are a lot of people who have not taken the opportunity to participate in Parks and Recreation programs, but they may have responded to this survey nonetheless, and so we were hopeful that they're being honest here, that they simply haven't had the opportunity to answer these questions honestly and they simply expressed no preference.

Are the programs at a convenient time of day? Usually and always, a little over 40 percent. Preferred time of the day, people prefer morning for classes, and that's exactly the way the schedule is laid out here. And day of the week? They prefer weekdays over weekends.

Next, how good are the programs? Again, I think as you look at this, it's fairly impressive. Programs are well organized, 45 percent. The staff is knowledgeable--here we got a 23 percent always. That's really an extraordinary rating for the staff. I think you should all be very proud of the work that your staff is doing here. Overall, a little over 50 percent always or usually considered very knowledgeable. The equipment is adequate, about 48 percent. The programs meet expectations, again a fairly good number. And the fees charged for programs--this is a really interesting statistic here, 62 percent say the fees are just right. Okay. 6.4 percent say the fees are too high, and you can't even see the sliver here, but 1.3 percent, as I recall, say the fees are too low.

We had the director from Boiling Springs, the Parks and Recreation Department with us this afternoon. That's one thing she mentioned. She said, you know, our fees are much higher than your fees, and even with our fees we have a hard time recouping the cost of our programs. So that's one of the things that the city's going to start to talk about to see if that makes any sense in helping to support Parks and Recreation programming.

Another chart where it's a little bit difficult to read, and I'm going to zoom in, but this compares the value people place in Parks and Rec programs to the value they place on other activities. And again, we've seen this before, all your activities in one way or another relate to the beach--walking, swimming, fishing, bicycling, sailing, canoeing. Most valuable programs, once again, the weight room right at the top, followed immediately by the cardio room, senior activities, holiday activities. Let me zoom in on each of these for you.

Okay, so your most valued activities. Beach walking, swimming, fishing, bicycling, sailing, canoeing. Playground comes in here. Hiking, tennis, picnic in the park, jogging, running, other--those are really popular. And then the programs. Now, if you remember the chart over here on the right that you just saw, the activities people enjoy, the things that they do on their own rank a little bit higher, but these are right up there. And again, fitness activities. People are interested in staying in shape. Social activities, holiday events are a big draw, aerobics, youth activities, beach walkers, yoga. Water aerobics, when you can find a place to do it, and I understand the only opportunity right now is to go to BCC, which is what, about a 40 minute drive, or Wilmington. And from what I understand, BCC is really subscribed.

Also on here, a really valuable program that's part, but not run by Parks and Rec, but supported by Parks and Rec, Nutri-lunch, serving about 30 people a day in this very facility. I'll talk a little bit about that in a second.

One more chart. We asked, what would you like in the future? What facilities, buildings, parks, what things would be most valuable to you in the future? We came up with a list. The list was a ranking of one to five, and there's some that were so far down the list they didn't even get to five. There's a whole bunch of things here that had scores that would be essentially off this chart if I actually charted it properly. Let's zoom in at the ones at the top.

Some interesting things here. The top 20 preferred future facilities or buildings Oak Island responded to in this survey--a lot of things will just fall right into place with what we've already seen. People are very interested in the beach, they want more restrooms. They want more beach access, more beach parking, more fishing areas. So the connection to the ocean keeps showing up. They're interested in fitness. They want a larger cardio room, they want a larger weight training room. We see this--activities with canoes and kayaks. So the first thing we can see is , the residents who responded to this survey are asking for more of what you already have.

There's something else that's interesting here. We see new things show up, things that you don't have, that also rate very high, and I want to point one out because it keeps coming up, particularly in the written comments to the surveys. There's three citations for swimming pools. New indoor swimming pool ranks almost at the very top, new outdoor swimming pool just below it, new therapy pool, also up there in that ranking. New amphitheater. So there are new facilities that are desired. There's also a

request to continually improve, upgrade, and enlarge the facilities you already have. I'm going to talk in a minute about how we pay for this by the way, don't worry. That's facilities.

Let's talk about programs that are most preferred. And again, we see in all the survey, there's a group of things that just rise to the top. I'm going to zoom in on that, and there are other activities which are further down on the list, some which really don't even chart, but are very low. Let's zoom in on the programs that are most preferred in the future. Again, just what we'd expect, more fitness, music concert events, arts and crafts, but also again, swimming is showing up--recreational swimming, therapeutic aquatics, swimming lessons, all right up there at the top in terms of preferences for future programming in Oak Island.

We asked another question, and this was prompted in some measure by the annexation of land north of the island, which I think you're all familiar with. The particulars of the development agreement for that land that is annexed is that at some point in the future when it's developed, lands will be set aside for future park land. As I recall it's in the neighborhood of about 50 acres. So land in some period of time, likely in the next ten years, is going to come to Oak Island and you're going to have the opportunity to determine how you want to use that. So we asked the question, what do you want to do with that land?

So 22 percent said acquire it and just preserve it. In other words, we're going to land bank that. We're not going to do anything. We're not going to develop it. It could be used for environmental conservation, a lot of it is wetland area. We're not going to develop it. Thirty-four percent suggested you acquire it but you designate it for passive use, and that's a Parks and Rec term that really means your typical park. It might have some trails, maybe a shelter or two, some signage, but no intensive development. Only 6.2 percent said you ought to acquire that land and improve it for active use. And the definition of active use would be a facility, or a playing field--so a baseball field, soccer field, anything that represents a developed park property. And then 25 percent said, okay, acquire it and then do both those things on that property; 12 percent said, you know, even if they give it to you, don't take it.

So there's a willingness, if the property comes your way, to exploit that for parks and recreational purposes. The only question is how we want to do that. So we need to talk a little bit about that.

And we need to talk about this, which is, okay, you're not growing now. You will be growing at some point in the future, that's almost a certainty within ten years. Somewhere in this community there will be growth. It's probably not going to be growth on the island proper. There seems to be very little open property for future development, and it seems also unlikely that there's a willingness to increase the density of this island. And one of the things that we keep seeing over and over again is people are very happy with the density, with the feeling, with the character of the island.

But you do have the annexed property to the north, and it's likely to be developed at some point when the economy improves, it will be a source of population growth. So we anticipate that, but what we don't understand is how quickly that will occur. Right now, it's not occurring at all, and may not occur for the next two years, but at some point in this ten-year period, property within the city limits of the town of Oak Island will increase and there will be increased demand for services.

So the question is, when that demand comes, what are the funding mechanisms that we have for it. So we simply asked the question. How are you going to pay for this? Not surprisingly, less than three percent said they would like to increase funding and increase taxes. And this is just so unsurprising. Also unsurprising is--and I'm sorry, I would answer these things exactly the same way as you guys --we like a funding mechanism where somebody else pays for it. So, accommodations taxes, 18 percent, make the tourists pay for it. This one's good, and if you could pull this one off, I think there's some senators who would like to talk to you about how you do this: increase funding, but don't raise taxes. Twenty-seven percent would like to do that. Bond referendum, 13.5 percent; matching grants, 27.6. In each case, it's a marvelously hopeful point of view. Let somebody else help us pay for this.

But the take-home message here is, and I think we're all feeling this, right now I don't think any of us have the stomach for further tax burden in this community, or in any community in North Carolina, or anywhere in this nation. So we've got to think seriously about that, and understand how we deal with that in the years to come. Now, again, we're all hopeful that things are going to improve, and I think we have to be mindful that right now, expecting to launch a significant capital campaign to improve Parks and Recreation in Oak Island in the next two years is probably a moot issue. We're going to talk about how we deal with that when we start to make our plans for the coming years.

That's a synopsis of the survey. That's not everything. Just so you know, there were two other data points on that survey. There were over 500 surveys. That's 100,000 bits of data, and so we're still sorting through some of it. And there's likely to be a few errors which we're trying to correct. But there's more information that we can glean from that, and we're going to be tabulating that information and presenting that to you as our report develops. But that's a really good overview of what people think about Parks and Rec. In a lot of ways, it's very encouraging. People are very impressed with what this department does right now, and they're very hopeful about the future. We just need to figure out what that future should be.

So the plan. This is where we could really use your help tonight. I've identified some issues that we had talked about, and I think your opinion will be really valuable to us. The first one, right on top of the list, what kind of Parks and Recreation Department do you want in this community? Let me just offer you some--an anecdote. I've worked with Parks and Rec Departments, you know, a good number--Cary, Durham, Raleigh, Greensboro, Jacksonville. There's nothing quite like the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department for a number of reasons. One, I've just been astounded by the dedication of the staff and the conscientiousness with which they do their work. That's what makes them unique. They do an awful lot of things in this community that most Parks and Rec Departments in other communities don't do.

Let me give you some examples. They host the Nutrilunch. Hey, that's a valuable program to this community, but in Jacksonville, the Council of Aging handles that. In Greensboro, the County handles that. But in Oak Island it falls to the Parks and Recreation Department. So it's an interesting anomaly.

They do--they take care of beach access. They run the teen center. They run the community resource center. They run the nature center. They run the ocean education center. And, they sponsor leagues and programs and activities in this facility. So they do a lot of things and they're stretched very, very thin. Is that what they should be doing? It's just a question I think we need to talk about. Do we make them more like other communities' Parks and Rec Departments? Or do we keep them unique, the way they are today. It's an important question because we're talking about how we're going to find the resources to do more in Parks and Rec. So the first question is, are they doing the right things now? I'd like to talk about that.

Should they be focused on core programming? Things that interest everybody? Or special interest programming? Now, if you looked at the survey, you see 50+ adult softball. It got like zero in the survey, but I know that there are 20 or 30 people who are intensely interested in 50+ adult softball. They don't show up on that survey, but to them, that's one of the most valuable programs this department offers. And so, is it an either-or? Do we focus on core programming or do we meet all of the special needs of the community?

Do we need new programs or do we need new facilities? Centralized or decentralized? When growth comes, and we agree that we should expand programming, expand facilities, are we going to put all our eggs in one basket, or are we going to distribute throughout the community? So, for example, do we build it all on this site? Or do we make satellites? Do we distribute programming throughout the community?

And finally, how do we deal with these expenditures at a time of limited resources? These are questions for which we need you to help us come up with answers.

I want to--coming to the end here--I want to suggest to you five options. These are not things that we think you should do, these are what are the five things you could do, and we've deliberately set them in an extreme range. We're going to go from--let's just reduce everything. Let's cut budgets, let's skinny this down because we're in a tough time and we need to cut back. And it's going to go from there all the way to, you know, let's spend a lot of money and do a lot of things. So I'm going to show you five different strategic approaches to the development of your Parks and Recreation Department over the next ten years.

This one says, we're going to reduce it. We're going to redirect its services. We're going to redefine its activities. We're going to reestablish its mandate. We're going to focus it on things that are usually Parks and Recreation Department, and we're going to spin off all the other stuff to somebody else.

Number Two. Maintain the status quo. We're just going to keep doing what we're doing right now because if you look at the survey, it looks like it's doing pretty good. There's not a lot of dissatisfaction the way it's performing right now, why change anything? That is an option we need to talk about and maybe consider.

Three. Growth will come. We need to anticipate and be ready for it, let's propose limited expansion over these next ten y ears.

Four. More optimistic. Things are going to improve faster than we expect. Moderate expansion.

Five. Biggest expansion.

Okay. Within this bracket there's an option for Oak Island. What we need to do tonight is figure out which one we need to pursue. I'm going to articulate these in a little more detail for you, and then we'll get into the question and answer.

Option one. This is reduction. So, we redefine and limit Parks and Rec's mandate. Beach access--we give that to somebody else. It's not really a Parks and Rec job. Nutrilunch--we talked to the Nutrilunch people. They're most appreciative of this facility, and as I said, it's a valuable service for this community. But if you see the kitchen, you'll recognize that it's vastly inferior to their needs. The Nutrilunch people need a commercial kitchen which cooks the meals and they deliver it to 30 constituents or more on a daily basis. And they do the best they can. They do a terrific job in this facility, but they really need a better facility. So there's a need. Should that be a need funded under the umbrella of Parks and Recreation, or does it need to come under someone else? I think we need to talk about that.

One of the things, when the new town hall opens, now in April, the meeting we're having right here leaves this space and goes up over there, so already Parks and Rec is relieved of one responsibility. They don't' have to set up this room for all public meetings. This, tonight, could be an aerobics class instead of a public meeting. So we've already begun that redefinition process.

Parks and Rec does a lot of cultural programming, music concerts, other cultural events, arts programs. In other communities, that's a kind of service that a Council of Arts handles, not Parks and Recreation Department. Should they be doing it? Maybe we need to rethink about that.

We look at all those programs that are under subscribed, that are not part of the core. And we say, well, we're going to trim those a little bit. Everything else, we maintain present funding. We focus staff and resources on the core programming, and maintain maintenance at current levels. No new capital improvements. Somebody gives us some new land out of the new access, we'll take it, but we're not going to develop it. That's the base. That's the reductive mode. And we could certainly go there.

But one step up from that, number two. Maintain status quo. I'm not sure I have to explain this one very much, because it's what you have right now. We're going to still better define Parks and Rec's mandate. Make it really clear what it is they're responsible for. If I can just share with you one anecdote. I was talking with one of your fellow citizens about Parks and Recreation Department and they said, "You know, whenever this community has something it needs to get done, they give it to the Parks and Rec Department because they know it'll get done."

Maybe it's time to think about what we really want the Parks and Rec Department to be doing. So we always--in each of these scenarios--try and redefine their mandate. Maintain everything at the present rate. No increase, no capital improvements. Again, somebody gives us some land, you know, we'll put up a fence, some signs, maybe some trails, but not much.

The middle option. Limited expansion. Again, we're going to figure out the mandate for Parks and Recreation. There's an increase in funding for facilities and staff as warranted by program expansion, but it's nominal, and it's phased, only when the need shows itself through increase in population. Expansion of core programming and a corresponding expansion of the equipment and supplies that are necessary for that programming.

A limited renovation of this recreation center. And by limited, we would mean enhancements that would allow the programming to be better executed in this building. Right now we know, not enough room for the weight room. Not enough room for cardio rooms. New flooring is necessary for the aerobics area. The acoustics in this place are dreadful, probably needs an insulation update. Probably can use a mechanical update, a lot of maintenance to be taken care of. The storage here needs to be rethought, and in many ways the restrooms and other facilities don't fully comply with the ADA. So a limited renovation would say, we're going to upgrade this building so it better serves the needs of programming, but it's not a major addition by any means. Very modest in cost.

These two go together. As we walk around your parks--and again, they look well maintained, but there is elements of deferred maintenance, things that have been put off that need to be addressed. And there are some--sprucing up that needs to be done. So we'd recommend some increased funding, but no major new capital projects. And again, we'll acquire new park land and there might be moderate capital investments again--trails, park shelters, but not active use, just passive use.

Four. Moderate expansion. And I think you're getting the gist of this. We just sort of blow everything up at every step. And we're going to do it here. Okay. Again, better mandate. Phased increase in funding. Program expansion. Increase in funding for equipment and supplies, again, tied to changes in the demographics of the region. Moderate capital expenditures for facility upgrade, so significant renovation of the recreation center.

I told you I'd come to this. In 2007 we recommended--we just showed you seven different ways to tackle the renovation of this building. Each had a different price tag. At a minimum, it would add a gymnasium, new fitness spaces, new aerobics rooms, expanded weight room, a whole host of other recreational features--that was sort of the bottom, most inexpensive approach to the renovation of the center, and that's what we'd be proposing here. A substantial addition to this center. Improvements to other facilities. New capital project, therapy pool. And also something we saw a lot of in the surveys, people are requesting more beach amenities, more rest rooms, more showers. And we think at this point it would be good to tie that in to either a bond referendum or a capital improvements budget.

And again significant increased compensation for deferred maintenance.

Park land. We want to improve them, and we'll consider both passive and active uses. So some of this newly acquired land might be dedicated to ball fields. Again, contingent upon the growth we anticipate in the future.

And finally, and I think the technical term for this would be the "big kahuna," number five, biggest expansion. Again, pieces where we do everything, and then later we try to understand how we pay for it all, but these are all needs in this community that we can justify as being valid. Okay, again, all the things you've seen before. Significant renovation of the recreation center. Of the seven schemes we showed you, this would be the most expensive one. So this would have gymnasium. This would have all of the cardio, weights, aerobics, fitness rooms, and a recreational pool with limited lap lanes, and it would be all on this site. So that is indeed our recommendation from 2007. And improvement of the facilities. New capital projects, pool with a therapy and lap pool at a new location as yet unspecified.

And then another thing we've talked about, joint ventures between private enterprise and the public government. One of the things that you can do with your investments in public infrastructure is you can encourage other kinds of development. So there may be an interest in creating some sort of recreation facility that becomes a draw for other kinds of commercial interest, possibly in new annexed areas. So, gymnasium that draws people that then activates and vitalizes a commercial shopping district out north. Something we might want to look at. We really work on deferred maintenance. Acquire passive and active land--park land.

So those are five completely different ways of addressing the needs we see coming in the future. And so, how do we choose? Well, we could just pick one. This is arbitrary. I picked two, and just follow it out. But we don't necessarily have to do that. We can look at where we are today, what our resources are today, and we can start down a path, because all of these paths can be interconnected.

So, we can start at one, and, you know, that wouldn't be a bad idea because we do know for the next two or three years, we're not going to be making any significant capital investments in this community. But in three years, the economy improves, we see revenues rising. We see people doing better.. We see people lose that look of anxiety that we all carry around these days about our future. Three years from now, that's going to happen, we're all going to be smiling. Things are going to be looking up. We go, okay, we'll move down. We'll take the track on four for a couple of years. Well, the economy's cyclical. It's going to go up, and go down, maybe we have to cut back. So in other words, we could develop a plan in which every option is in play but it all depends precisely on the state of the economic health of the community. And we build into it, rail sidings if you will. So we can start down one path, but we can move in different directions when we see the need arises.

And that's the strategy we're pursuing, but what we really want to do with you all tonight is have you tell us what you think we ought to be doing. But there's other things to talk about. Operations, policies, revenues, expenditures, capital costs, phasing, environmentalism which a gentleman and I had a nice talk about before we got started, and its essence. Parks and Recreation Department is about parks, which is about the environment and we need to be conscious of that, so we'd like to talk about that.

All these things that come later in the process. First, we need to figure out where we're going. And so I was just--that's the topic for our conversation for the remainder of the evening, and with that, I'm going to turn lights on and we're going to--I'm going to take off my jacket--and we're going to start talking. So, someone will have a microphone, and--oh, we're going to change tape.

(Brief recess while tape is changed.)

MR. SPEARS: Thank you, they're extraordinary. The floor is open. You know, I'm so long-winded, I didn't leave you enough time to properly discuss, but we'll take as much time as you like. I'm here for the evening, and I'll willing to stay as late as anybody else wants to talk, but we will go for about 30 minutes, and then take a little bit of a break in case somebody needs to slip out gracefully. So why don't we just open the floor and whoever would like to talk, or ask a question. Yes, ma'am, right here in the front row.

AUDIENCE: I just wondered what were some of the things that the teens said they would like, and what were some of the things that people thought the teens should have?

MR. SPEARS: Mostly--update Middleton Park, expand skate facility. They don't like younger kids. I'm not going to tell you what they wrote, but the teens--they don't enjoy that. More things to do in the rec center. They want Middleton Park to be bigger. Shag dancing. Build a pool. Update Middleton Park. More things for home schoolers. That's interesting, I wouldn't have thought of that. A lot of response for Middleton. Yoga. Game systems for the rec center. More time for teens in programming. New basketball court. Weight center just for teens. I don't know, do you have teens? They don't like to do anything with anybody else.

AUDIENCE: Hi. I wondered if you put any emphasis on what needs to be done to protect our citizens. I think--you can't come on the island without seeing bikers and walkers on the same path. You can't go in the cardio center without probably getting at least a bruise because you're jammed so close together, and there are times that you do worry that somebody's going to drop something on you, if you're trying to find a spot on the floor. I even think about the basketball courts. I've pulled in when a ball is coming at me, and it's usually a child following the ball, so I think we really have to look at the safety of our citizens almost before--with what we are doing--almost before we can look at other things.

MR. SPEARS: I think that's an extraordinarily good point, and, you know, safety has a couple of components. One is operational, it's how you administer the programs that you do, how well trained your staff is; and the common sense rules that you put into place. And I think on that score, from what I've seen of the administrative procedures that's in place for Parks and Rec, they're doing a pretty good job. On the other hand, it seems everywhere on Oak Island, you're working with limited space and a lot of the facilities have been created over time without necessarily the same level of thought about issues of safety. So I think--you saw, on each of the options, there was the suggestion that as we invest more funds, we always take a portion of those funds and dedicate them to upgrades to existing facilities. And I would suggest we ought to put safety measures, security, good lighting at night, protective fencing--all of those things on that list of things that we think ought to be incorporated into a standard set of upgrades for improvements to existing facilities. So I think that needs to be an important part of our thinking. So, Amanda, that's a good one. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I also wanted to reiterate what Ms. Kathy said as far as the safety goes. And just for my input that what you were asking was out of the five categories, and I think, given the economy, that you certainly can't go into number four which would be ideal, but it would be nice to do some immediate--we do have some immediate needs that haven't been addressed, in this particular building for about four or five years, and most concerns are becoming dangerous as far as when you're in the weight room and the limited amount of space, and the placing of a lot of the equipment, it's too close to some of the other things. So we've just outgrown it, and we're so over it at this point, so I guess what I'm saying is that maybe see about grants or funding that we can get, that have been available to us, as qualifying as a fit community, and take those funds and put them directly back into the rec center in the immediate areas that pose the most immediate danger at this point, until you can drag this out and do the other plans all thought out and everybody puts their two cents in. But those things are a concern right now.

MR. SPEARS: So, identify the most pressing issues, particularly in terms of safety, and find an economical plan to address them as quickly as possible. Okay. That's a great suggestion. Yes, sir.

MR. WOLFE: My name is Pop Wolfe. And I want to know where are we going to build the pool and when are we going to build the pool? We've talked about it enough.

MR. SPEARS: We certainly have. As I mentioned, I don't see much happening in terms of major capital improvement in this community for two to three years. So that's the outside range. Money is the problem. Let's talk about the investment that would be necessary. A stand-alone therapy pool, suitable for a class size of about 30 people, maybe you could do two classes in it, about two million dollars. Okay. And that's construction. Throw in another quarter million dollars for fees and paying me--just a small piece of that. So that's the bottom line.

MR. WOLFE: (not on mic) I gave money--

MR. SPEARS: Well, that is one option. We talked about this in 2007, there were a few folks who sat in this room who talked about going out and find some private funding to sort of prime the pump. But that's a fairly modest investment in good times. Now, I can't speak to how things are here. There's a lot of demands on your resources in this community. But what I would tell you, and I'm going to be the first to admit to you that this is completely self-serving, if you think three years from now would be a good time to--the economy improved enough for you to invest this kind of money--in the next six months would be a really great time to hire an architect to help you get to it. It doesn't have to be me, necessarily, but I think we're looking at three years before we can do anything modest. Yes.

AUDIENCE: I have a question about tennis courts. I like the new signs that are up explaining who's supposed to be using them and the proper wear, but apparently the kids with their skateboards don't read, because they're still skating all over. There's grease on one of the courts that we can't play on because you'll skid and slip and fall. And I'm wondering, who's responsible, and who should be watching these? You know, the police say they're not in charge, even though they're right there. And there's a sign that says they're not supposed to be there, they don't do anything about it.

MR. SPEARS: This is an administrative problem, and the policing--I say small "p" problem. Kellie, where are you?

MS. BEESON: I'm not sure how to answer that one. We don't have the staff to monitor the use. I think we need to work in cooperation with the police department. If a rule is being broken, then we need to ask somebody down there to address that, especially if they're doing damage to the court.

AUDIENCE: Can someone clean it?

MS. BEESON: That's a maintenance thing, but I'll certainly talk to Gene about it. I wasn't aware of that. We'll look into it. Absolutely. It needs to be used.

MR. SPEARS: Thank you, Kellie. Sorry to put you on the spot. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I was just going to reiterate what Pop was saying. If we're talking about if we are going to make some increased improvements in a few years, what people think about as far as how we could work together toward that if we want to get a pool on Oak Island, how would we best start working besides hiring you right now?

MR. SPEARS: Please, I was being facetious. But I really could use some work. Yeah, we could all. Well, first of all, you're participating in this forum, and people have responded in surveys. And what I showed you on the screen is what the community is telling us who responded, that there is strong grassroots support for swimming pools, but I think, as was noted, there's been that support for a long time. We saw it, very vigorous support, in 2007, and here it is three years later and we're really not much further down that road.

Let me make a couple of suggestions along that line. There are a whole variety of different kinds of pool facilities that you could start to think about, some of which are easier to fund and run than other kinds. And I'm going to give you an example.

A therapeutic pool benefits from having a healthcare benefit, which can be reimbursed by insurance. And so it's much easier to finance a therapy pool and to set up its operating costs, because you can begin to describe a cash flow that accrues from insurance reimbursements for people who are using it for therapeutic uses. My guess is, and we are a bit in the fog about what's going to happen in our healthcare system in our country right now, but maybe that will become clearer in the future, but hospitals, wellness organizations, insurance companies all have an interest in seeing that we're all healthier. And I think if they can be encouraged to participate as a partner, maybe not a full partner, but one who could guarantee revenues, one who could underwrite funding, one who could provide staffing for it--if you could bring that to the table, that then becomes something that would alleviate a lot of the concerns that people have about these kinds of facilities. Because it's not so much the first cost of building the thing, it's hiring the staff year after year, after year, and this tends to be sophisticated staff, people who have a pool operator's license. So I would really encourage you to go out into the business community, and try and find a partner for one of these projects.

Now, we can say--I'd love saying the same thing about a competition pool, but it tends not to be a pool that is as easily supportable as a therapy pool. Recreational pools fall somewhere in between, they can support themselves if you set the fees high enough. For those kinds of pools, I think what you need is a groundswell of support. You need, you know, people to talk to their--well, and I'm not about to offer you political advice, I think it best I not do that. But you understand that if enough people get together and make their voices heard, that's how you move things in our community. So those would be my suggestions.

AUDIENCE: I just moved here in November, so I probably shouldn't say anything--

MR. SPEARS: Please, it doesn't stop me. I don't even live here, and all I do is talk with you people.

AUDIENCE: In one, the very first plan, you were talking about moving some of the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation to other agencies that most other communities use for that. If that were to happen, would that not open up funding to do some of these additional things that people are wanting?

MR. SPEARS: That's the thinking, exactly.

AUDIENCE: Well, maybe we ought to think about that.

MR. SPEARS: I think so. Well, I think--I raised the question, is Parks and Rec doing too much in this community? Are its resources being stretched too thin? And I think that's a question that you all--I'd love to hear you all talk to me about. Again, I think they do a marvelous job, but how thinly can you stretch them. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I have two suggestions. One is that Middleton Park needs a shade structure over that equipment. You can go up and down and there's no kids out on that equipment because it's too hot to touch.

MR. SPEARS: I was just looking at it before I got here. I drove by, and you're right.

AUDIENCE: And of course, that shade structure's going to be a natural attractant to kids. I have a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, and I swear one of the courses should have been called "designing for deviants" because whatever we designed, we had to then counter--redesign it for somebody utilizing it in the wrong way. But it needs a shade structure for toddlers and kids to utilize it during the day.

MR. SPEARS: Great suggestion.

AUDIENCE: The second thing is, with the pools, I think that there should be--now because of the economy, we not only do not have money, but land is really, really cheap. And I've already talked to Bridgers up--Hal Bridgers from the pool company and the landscape company--about the fast track or the skid track up here that's on Long Beach Road. I think that would make an excellent lazy river location. A lot of teens and people would love a lazy river, that's a big draw in Myrtle Beach. That's a big draw up at the water feature in Wilmington.

MR. SPEARS: Is everyone here familiar with the lazy river? I see a couple nodding no. It is a concrete channel in the shape of a sinuous curve, and you get in it and you're propelled by water as if you were in a river stream. Sorry.

AUDIENCE: And it's very low maintenance, very low risk of anybody drowning. It's a lot of fun, and it could be self-maintained by the fees that would be charged for it. I think it would be an excellent attraction and a draw for Oak Island to have a lazy river.

My second caveat would then be the therapy pool for people who are at the other end of the age bracket, as opposed to a competition pool, which is extremely high maintenance, extremely limited, and even though you may go in thinking that you're going to have it filled for five years for competition, I think that's a pipe dream. But a therapeutic pool for the people, you know, 45 and over, and for the people 45 and under, the lazy river. And I think that fast track skid track up on Long Beach Road would be an excellent location for one of those pools.

MR. SPEARS: Thank you. Can I touch on something you mentioned? You raised a really good point. Boy, if you had money to pay for construction, right now is the time to do it. We're seeing bids come into our office 25 percent below estimate right now. So, if there's any benefit to the downturn we're all suffering through is, there's never a better time in the world to purchase property, to make investments in construction, and to build buildings. So anybody that's got a set of plans that's ready to build, now is the time to do it. Here, yes.

AUDIENCE: We go to water aerobics twice a week.

AUDIENCE: (man continues) But a schedule that takes kids and seniors, everybody, over there and then brings them back would be, probably, a cheap investment while we tread water and wait for the finances of the town improve. So that's my core dump, and I leave you with it.

MR. SPEARS: Thank you. Yes, sir.

MR. STODDS: My name's Richard Stodds and I have a little dog. I live on 41st Street and between 41st and 42nd Street on Oak Island Drive, there's a wonderful dog park. I would like to see a light at that park, because during the winter months, there's no light back in there at all, and this park is well used. So that's one of the things that I'd like to have done.

The other would be--you mentioned a problem with storage here. As a member--an artisan, and a member of the Oak Island Art Guild, we have a great number of screens which we use for two events every year here. We have the Arts Fun Shore Show, which is a big attraction for the tourists as well as the residents here, and we have to erect screens. These screens average about four foot wide by six foot high, and we have ten or twenty of them. We need a place to store these. Now it's my recommendation that in the interim, before we get any kind of permanent facility here, could Oak Island Art Guild not put up a shed or something in the back of this--of the grounds here--the Oak Island Art Guild would pay for it, and erect it. And we could use that for our screens, and that would allow us to carry these screens from the back of the property to this room when we set up. And we also use these screens for the Arts and Crafts Festival that's held on the Saturday before Labor Day. For the past three years, I've been the chair of this event. The gentleman next to me is well involved in it as well, and we have to carry these screens to that location for our tents. So this would be one of the recommendations that I'd like to see done immediately.

MR. SPEARS: How big a shed?

MR. STODDS: Well, we were thinking of one of these sheds that Lowe's sell for, I think they're ten by twelve, 12 by 16. Wouldn't have to have wiring or anything. It's just a place to store these screens.

MR. SPEARS: I was wondering, what if you had a trailer?

MR. STODDS: We thought of that too, but that involves insurance, and moving it.

MR. SPEARS: I think the shed's going to involve insurance too, but tell you what. Both are very interesting ideas, and one of the things about what I'm doing is it's looking sort of longer term. The process is not necessarily set up to respond with any degree of immediacy. Both--particularly the lights, sounds like something--where's Jerry? Jerry, can we do something about either of these issues?

MR. WALTERS: I'll look into it.

MR. SPEARS: Okay. Sir, if you could chat with Jerry after the meeting? Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: I don't understand. Why do we need a light at the dog park?

MR. STODDS: Well, during the winter months, it's very dark (off mic).

MR. SPEARS: Can you tell us your concern, ma'am?

AUDIENCE: When an isolated area, such as that, is lighted at night, it becomes a gathering place for teens, people who probably are doing some things out there that they wouldn't do if it weren't lit.

MR. SPEARS: No. You're pulling my leg, aren't you? Well, can I ask a question? Sir, when you walk your dog in the winter--we're going to solve this one pretty quick. How late at night do you do it? Seven o'clock? I mean, you're talking about the early evening.

MR. STODDS: It gets dark at five o'clock during the winter months.

MR. SPEARS: But it doesn't need to go past seven--you're not walking your dog at ten?

MR. STODDS: No, and it could be--

MR. SPEARS: Jerry, can we get him a light with a timer? At seven o'clock it goes dark and the teens vamoose. If I could, it's now twenty to eight. No, no, we're going to keep going. I just wanted to say, if some of you need to get going, I'm not going to be offended if I see the back side of you walking through the door. But there is a couple more folks. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: Yes. Has anyone ever thought about working with the YMCA? I know they go into communities and they will share the cost of building facilities.

MR. SPEARS: There is a history of this community trying to work out something with the YMCA. It was prior to my time, and my understanding, and someone who experienced it could tell the whole story better than I can, but your level of participation could never be agreed to, so it didn't move forward. And in fact, someone mentioned that to me again today, and in essence, we're not going to try the YMCA thing again, are we? And I can't tell you the reasons behind that. But in most communities, that does seem like a rational suggestion.

AUDIENCE: Yes. I'm going to sing if you guys will kind of hang out for a minute. I'm a member of the Joyful Noise choir. I've been a resident here for 12 years and I've used the rec center for the last nine, and I also have the opportunity to teach water aerobics in the summer. And I'm just making a comment, I don't have any questions. My comment is that I think we do need to look to the future, not only in population, but in facilities, and support, and look at what we can do for expansion. This facility is too small for the population it serves. We don't have the pool facilities that we need. And I just want--I support do what we can to expand for the future to look at the opportunities. I know we're in financial difficulties, but we do need to think forward ten years about who we're looking at, what we're dealing with. To me, it's not age-related. I deal with all ages of people in the pools, and all types of pools, and I think we need to look at all the different facilities that we can support and that can provide for the population that we're serving right now and that we're going to serve ten years from now.

MR. SPEARS: Thank you so much. One more? Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: What is your experience as volunteerism and recreation departments? Do you ever find that that works out well?

MR. SPEARS: We've talked about that here. There are communities that have guilds, or civic organizations that support parks and rec. By the way, you do have volunteers here that do many things for you, yes, already. It may not be a formal organization, but you have a lot of assistants in many of your programs, so that's already happening here.

AUDIENCE: Can that be stepped up?

MR. SPEARS: You could certainly step that up. One of the things I suggested is making it a formal organization. It is the Parks and Recreation Department Guild. And it does fund raising activities on behalf of the department. It provides a resource for volunteers, so it's not the same people all the time. You can rotate three people. It gives an organizational structure. It becomes--in an ideal world, and in other places that I've had experience with--it can be a non-profit organization. People can make bequests to it, bequest estates to it and funding to it. It becomes a marvelous rallying point for people who want to contribute more to their community. So it's a marvelous suggestion. I think we want to carry that forward.

AUDIENCE: It might pick up the shortage that we have right now.

MR. SPEARS: It would help with some of the things, but I think as Kellie will point out to you, there's a lot of things that really require a high degree of training and responsibility and reliability, particularly when you start talking about pools. But keeping an eye on the tennis courts, that would be a great thing for a volunteer to do for them. Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: Talking about the pools. A question for you. Timeline-wise, if we wanted to start implementing a pool, what is the timeline before it's finished, and when does it have to be paid for?

MR. SPEARS: Let me just give you some direct experience of a pool I'm doing right now in Raleigh. We started--to give you a sense of scale, it's 18,000 square feet, it's a full recreational pool. It's got three lap lanes. It's got a lazy river. It's got a big slide. It's 18,000 square feet, about the size of nine large homes, so it's a substantial facility. We started the design process almost exactly one year ago from this month. We're going to go to bid the project in March, so that's about 15 months to do all the design work and prepare all the documentation. The schedule calls for us to open in September 2011, about a year and a half. So for a pool of that scale, about two and a half years, if you started today. And how is it paid for? There's a--is that--

AUDIENCE: Timeline, and my other question--comment was, many organizations do fundraising, our church does, and they put the thermometer out and all that, and I'm wondering if the pool might be something that the community and businesses would be interested in contributed to. And my feeling is if you could start something now and have it starting at a little cheaper price now because of the economy, and get it going, where you don't have to come up with all the money at one time. That was my question, when would it have to be paid?

MR. SPEARS: Jerry, you can speak to this issue far better than I can. But likely, you're going to want to fund the construction through some form of municipal bonding or financing. Independently raised funds could contribute to that pool of money. Could you talk about funding mechanisms and how that could work?

MR. WALTERS: Certainly funding contributions can be accepted by the town, tax deductible contributions. But in terms of funding, once you agree to start construction and hire a contractor, you really have to have the money in the hand to be able to pay the contractor. So it's one of those that your finances have to be lined up ahead of time. Certainly, a fund raising effort can be made before you decide the project, or even in the interim while the design is being made, because design is a relatively small part of the overall project cost.

MR. SPEARS: Absolutely. I just had a question here, for those of you who didn't hear. Malcolm? Yes, Malcolm was asking the facility I was describing to you, what is its cost? Hopefully, it's going to come in at six million dollars. And total project cost of about eight million dollars. That's everything, that's turn the key in the door, walk in and start swimming. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: Is it possible to build--construct an outdoor pool and then build a building around it afterwards?

MR. SPEARS: Yes, it is possible.

AUDIENCE: So you could do it in phases?

MR. SPEARS: You can do that. And again, I'm working a lot with Raleigh products right now, so I'm going to give you current examples. They have done that in several different ways with varying degrees of success. They have two major competition pools, one Optimist, the other, Millbrook. Both were originally built as outdoor pools. About 12 years ago they put inflatable domes over both of them, which permitted them to be "indoor pools." They had several difficulties with them. Any time there was snow forecast, they had to deflate it, because it would collapse under snow loads. Fortunately they didn't get much snow. Every time there was a hurricane warning, they had to deflate it, because it's a hazard. And after 12 years they got tired of doing that.

They have since enclosed both of them in semi-rigid structures. So what these have are a steel frame, and then a lightweight, fabric panel that in-fills over the top of that, and they have various ways they can remove that so that during the summer, if you want to have the sunbathing experience, they pull off the panels and let the sun come in. But in the winter they can close it.

Is it as good as a built-from-scratch indoor pool? No, they have great trouble controlling temperature in these pools. One has been operational now--they went through their first winter last year, and they just had extraordinary problems with humidity and temperature control inside of it. And that's the down side. Its life expectancy? If they're lucky, in 15 years it will still be serviceable, but there's no guarantee of that, whereas a permanent facility should last 30 years without renovation, and 70 years with maintenance. So there's a tradeoff there.

In a time--if you don't have any other choice, which was their situation, you sure can do that, but you're going to have to recognize you're going to lose some value in that arrangement, ultimately. But, yeah, you can do it for sure.

AUDIENCE: Well, they're already having all kinds of problems at BCC with the pool at BCC. They have problems--we got our class cancelled again on Wednesday, and that's a big, full-blown facility.

MR. SPEARS: What kind of problems are they having?

AUDIENCE: I have no idea. They just called us all and told us not to come. Well, they have heating problems all the time. Water. And they had the lap pool closed for a whole week.

AUDIENCE: The design problems that were--are there at that facility, would be ones that we would not make if we were going to put another one up here. There were certain issues like what he was saying, if you make an indoor pool, it lasts longer, it's much better, there's no hurricane problems. The temperature is better controlled and it ends up being cheaper. But the pool part of it would have to have better design.

MR. SPEARS: Let me tell you--explain--I tell people. I got started in my career as a laboratory designer, and doing architecture for biopharmaceutical plants. What I've discovered is that a swimming pool is essentially a biopharmacological factory in which the people get in the tanks. Because the filtration, the bacteria, it's all the same, except people are running around in the thing. It's an enormously complicated bit of plumbing, and they all have problems. But we're hoping the ones we do don't have as many problems. I'm sorry to hear they're having difficulties.

For most pools, there's a two-year shake-down, when they work out the bugs, and I think they're probably still in that phase. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: Hi. We just moved here in December, and part of the reason we moved down here is it is very dog-friendly. And luckily enough we are very near the dog park, which looks like it would be very easy to expand, and we were hoping that it could be possible that it would be expanded, and possibly maybe some kind of alternate flooring, instead of the sand so that when you bring your dogs home you don't have an entire car full of sand with you. But I just thought I'd put a plug in there for that, because that's a very important aspect of this island for us.

MR. SPEARS: I didn't point it out, but among the things that people said they'd like to see expanded was the dog park, in that upper bracket of things. Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE: I just want to follow up with your comment of a second ago. There are all kinds of reasons why pools go down. One is just fecal matter in the pool causing closure for 24 hours, and that happens often, and the more kids you have in the pool, the more likely. And that's not a mechanical issue. But any facility operator will tell you that their biggest headaches come from the pool, hot tub or saunas, not necessarily in those orders, because there's so many different mechanical systems that go into it. One is the caustic nature of the chlorinating and sanitizing the water; two is the electric systems to pump the water; three is the heat. All the different metals and things that come into contact with the water and the pH swings of the bathers. Salt water pools are more expensive, but you're dealing with water that has salt in it, and we know that salt water is more caustic. It tends to corrode things quicker, so, you know, concrete and steel wear faster.

But pools will always break down, even if they're brand new and even if they're real old. And they're expensive. But I think the larger pools that you see that tend to operate real well, they probably have backup systems, and they probably spend an awful lot of money behind the scenes, both in staffing and in operational procedures that prevent us from knowing about it. And so my observations of Brunswick is that their staffing is a bare minimum. They're way over budget. They didn't have any

understanding of what it was going to cost to operate that pool, and they're operating at a very, very thin line. But it could be just as innocent as a kid jumping in the pool and having an accident. Or an adult.

But my question specifically was, do we have a feasibility study of the pool? I mean has anyone looked at the cost and the numbers and what it's going to cost taxpayers to do this? What kind of donations we would need? What kind of support from the community? What monies are available? How much is it going to cost to build it? How much is it going to cost to operate it? What kind of subsidies would be involved from the town? And basically, the impact to the taxpayer?

MR. SPEARS: In our 2007 study, when we proposed that there be, in the most expensive scheme, a pool in the back, the report, which exists somewhere, doesn't it? In the report we offered an analysis of construction costs, total project costs, and operating cost for that entire facility. Part of it was pool, part was gymnasium. So those figures were developed for that particular project.

For this master plan study, which looks very broadly, we're going to give some sort of rough guidelines for individual pieces, but we won't go into that level of detail. Nevertheless, if the community elects to move forward with a real proposal for a pool, then I think the kinds of studies you're describing need to be done at inception.

AUDIENCE: Well, it's encouraging, yet discouraging, to me to watch the process, because sometimes I feel that the way communities work is, they pass out ice cream and ask everyone if they like ice cream. In this case, hey, does everybody want a pool? And everybody says yeah, a pool would be great. So then there's public support, but no one really talked about the cost of the ice cream or the cost of the pool yet. And I think, as we've seen other projects go, the real costs need to be addressed right along with the sugar.

MR. SPEARS: We can certainly give you figures that will help support any number of different initiatives. One of the difficulties is once you're presented with those numbers, then you're really paying attention to them. There's something about moving forward with the capital cost for a facility, and then waiting until the fiscal year shows up to think about, oh, yeah, there was an operating cost attached to that. So, there's some due diligence that needs to occur by people who are the stewards of the funding mechanism. Someone like Jerry, who really understands these things extraordinarily well, when we've talked together about, one, how do we find financing for some of these things? Two, when do we bring these things on line? When does it make sense within the budget structure? He knows this stuff cold, and so one of the things I like about this community is I have a great deal of confidence that if we put forward a proposal and it found political favor, that it would be well administered. There are communities that I worked for that I couldn't make that statement. I'm not going to name names, Durham, but--yeah, you didn't hear that. And Chapel Hill's not much better. So I would be encouraged in this community, that the job would be done right.

AUDIENCE: There have been some projects where they have made very gross mistakes.

MR. SPEARS: Well, we all make mistakes. Anyone else? Amanda? You have a comment?

MS. HALL: Yes, actually. And mine was something Roger kind of touched on, but so that people understand the process. The committee is submitting a plan, and that will go to your Council. We're not making any final decisions, so once the plan is--we do our portion, then it'll be presented to Council, and where and what they do with it will be very much up to them. And obviously, they'll respond to what you, the public, tell them.

MR. SPEARS: Thank you. That's a good clarity.

MS. HALL: (In response to question from audience) Yes, I think we'll probably have this--the final draft report before Council hopefully in May.

MR. SPEARS: Here's a trick about public meetings. We never use months, we say second quarter.

MS. HALL: In the spring. It'll be in the spring of 2010. But we'll certainly get word out about that so you'll know when it's coming before Council, I promise.

AUDIENCE: My big question is the fact that we owe millions for our sewer project. How can we go on with another project?

MR. SPEARS: I don't think you can right now. I think there's going to be a period of time where everybody takes a breather, and that's why, I think in the next two to three years, you really focus on the things you can do with the resources you have at hand. So let's strengthen the programs. Let's retain staff. Let's do incremental things that improve the facilities enough to make them serviceable. I don't think there's a major capital project for this community until you get a few things under your--behind you. That's a personal opinion. Again, Amanda makes a really good point. It's the Council's decision as they interpret your desires. But I think their interpretation right now would be, we've got enough things on our plate and we need to take a breather. That just seems to be the political landscape right now. And it's not just Oak Island, it's everywhere. So I think you're saying something that we all share. Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE: (starts off mic) … financially, and we're already well over budget for our sewer system, but you buy low when you buy low, and right now, land is very, very cheap. There's things on the market, lots of acreage has been on the market that would make nice pocket parks. Again, that fast track has been for sale for a very, very long time. So if there's any way we could bank it, buy it and bank it and hold it, because in three years, if this place starts taking off, so will the land values take off and we won't be able to buy any more park land. It will already be beyond our price tag. So that's just my kind of two cents, is that if we could any way buy land when it's cheap--we do need some more pocket parks, like to see something for the teens. A therapy pool that we already have, if we put it on this site, the land is already owned, but right now land is pretty cheap.

AUDIENCE: There may be an answer to that situation too. Especially those 3000 acres that we've annexed recently. Ultimately, those will be developed. One of the criteria for the developers up there is a certain percentage of that, maybe one, two, or three percent of the land be donated for recreational use.

MR. SPEARS: It has been, in fact. Jerry, you can probably explain the terms of that better than I can, but there's 45 to 50 acres dedicated to the town for park land, and another some great amount of acreage dedicated for wetlands and nature preserve.

MR. WALTERS: There's roughly 400 to 500 acres that are preserved in wetlands on the tract.

AUDIENCE: That brings up the question whether we centralize or decentralize our facilities. I think the logical answer is going to be decentralize because of the size this town ultimately will be at some point.

MR. SPEARS: We've got a chicken and egg question here. Do you, because the land's available out there, do you make investments out there, or do you wait for the population to come and demand the service.

AUDIENCE: Right. Are we going to be reactive or proactive?

MR. SPEARS: Exactly. And then we want to learn more about the pace at which we think things might happen out there. I don't think as a committee, or as a planner, I know enough about what's going on out there. We need more knowledge about all that. So, we're asking questions, just like you are.

I think we're running a little low on tape or time, so maybe this would be a good time to call it a night. I'm going to sit here a while, so if anybody else wants to carry on a conversation. Thank you all so much.

There was no further discussion.

Appendix 8: Notes from the Parks & Recreation Staff Meetings

10/21/2009 Staff Comments

Recreation Center and grounds:

- Concerns over space – not only for programs, activities, but storage and office (safety concerns with current storage) not being able to meet program demands
- Age of facility also a safety concern
  - Restrooms – truly handicap accessible (large percentage of participants are seniors)
  - Fire alarm system and lack of sprinkler system
  - Wiring in offices and throughout older section a concern
- Kitchen – not useable from 10-2pm daily (storage for Nutritional Lunch program)
- Parking at Recreation center often not enough to accommodate
- Outside lighting at the Center – safety, security
- Future concerns with technology, software
- Not able to accommodate renters wanting to use building for private events
- Not enough space to accommodate the summer day camp program

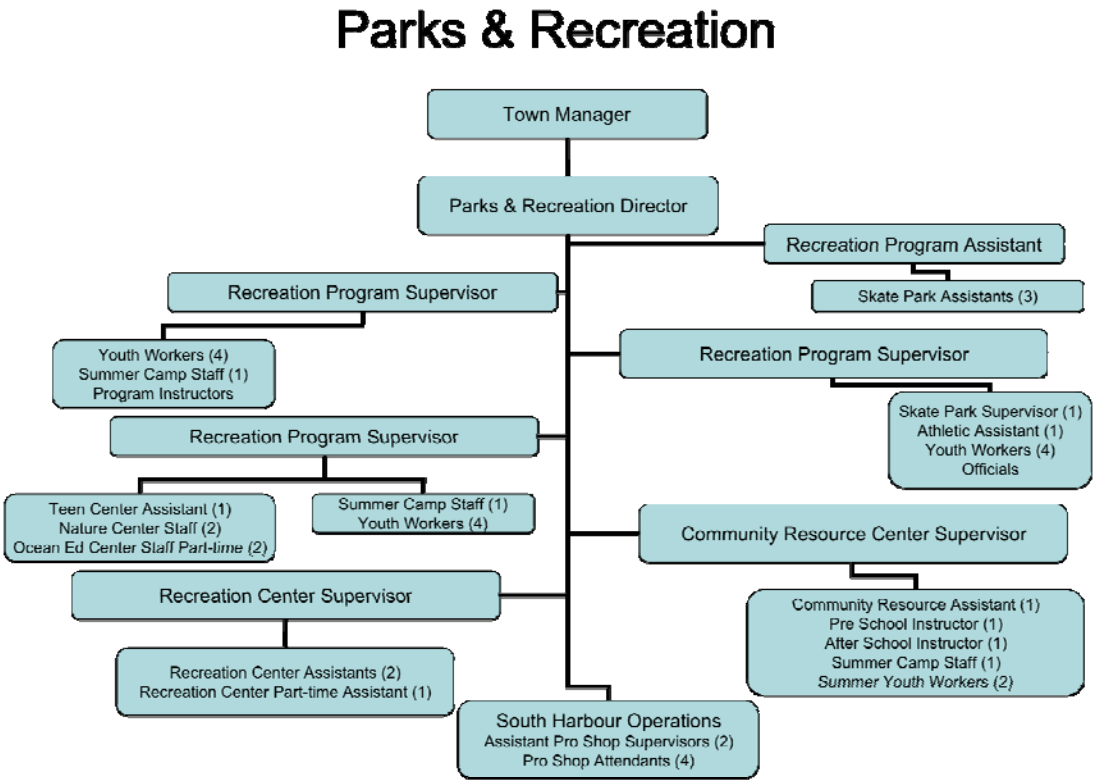
Special Facilities:

- Camps occupy most of the space at the Teen Center from June – August – 8am-4pm – missing out on the teens during this time – facility not available
- Nature Center – functions well for size – future need for expansion
- Ocean Education Center – again focuses well for size – future need for expansion
  - Numbers at all facilities support the great amount of use
- All of these facilities target locals and tourist – centers big drawing the summer

Athletic Facilities:

- Overall concern over maintenance and priority of recreation facilities and programs in the maintenance division
- Lack of soccer fields and in particular 100 yard (HS) size field
- Lack of an "adult" size softball field
- Lack of parking at facilities
- How the areas around the parks are used – dump site for beach trash at soccer field area and tennis courts
- Amenities at parks for older kids
- Water access at Smith Park
- Status of boat ramps at Waterway Park
- Better publicity of Fishing T's (end of OI drive and 58th and Yacht)
- Dog park not adequate
- Indoor basketball court
- Club house for South Harbour Golf Links
- STAFFING
- Need a PR Maintenance staff dedicate to PR facilities only
- Recreation Complex – more than just a basketball court
  - Would provide opportunity for all types of recreation, not just athletics (stage, indoor track, rock climbing wall, more office space, storage, larger weight and fitness facilities, etc…)
- Dedicated fitness room – not multi- purpose. Better flooring, acoustics, etc…
- Day care facility (possibly leased to private provider)
- Pool(s)for water aerobics, therapy, recreation
- Expand disc golf course
- Skate park – renovations, updates, repairs (maybe new location – current 2nd row on prime real estate)
- More rental opportunities at Smith park
- Community Resource Center – current building leased thru an agreement with Dosher Hosp.
- Future need for satellite facility on mainland sides of both bridges

Appendix 9: Parks & Recreation Department Organizational Chart



Appendix 10: Parks & Recreation Department Job Descriptions

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Performs administrative and managerial duties in planning, developing, organizing the daily operation of a municipal parks and recreation department.

An employee in this class performs a variety of administrative, supervisory, and professional duties in the management of the Parks and Recreation Department for the Town. The employee develops and plans work operations, projects department growth and development, and develops and modifies policies and procedures. The Director manages the short-term plans and day-to-day operation of department wide programs and facilities. Work included recruiting, hiring, training, supervising, evaluating staff. Work requires extensive public contact in the promotion, development and direction of the department. Work also includes operational and capital budgeting and planning for the current and future needs of the Oak Island community. Director also researches and applies for related grants, and seeks opportunities that will assist with program, facility funding. Works closely with other departments in regards to maintenance and development of programs and facilities. All work is performed in accordance with departmental rules and policies and requires judgmental discretion in the application and interpretation of programs, game rules, and procedures. Employee is subject to hazards in parks and recreation including work in both inside and outside environments and in extreme temperatures and noises. Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop, plan, and implement division goals and objectives; recommend and administer policies and procedures.
- Direct, oversee and participate in the development of the department's work plan; assign work activities, projects and programs; monitor work flow; review and evaluate work products, methods and procedures.
- Plan, organize, direct and evaluate the work and programs of the Parks and Recreation Department and staff.
- Prepare long-range plans to meet community needs based on studies of local conditions and projections of the future composition of the community; recommend additional, altered or expanded parks and recreation facilities.
- Plan and direct the development of new parks, facilities and programs, and improvements to existing facilities and programs.
- Ensure the Town is in compliance with Federal, State and local laws and codes pertaining to the area of responsibility
- Research and prepare applications for funding alternatives such as those obtained through grants and state programs; identify long-term financing alternatives.
- Coordinate and direct fund raising activities.
- Negotiate and administer joint use and funding agreements and contracts with public and private agencies.
- Prepare and submit reports, make recommendations and make presentations to various service clubs.
- Serve as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Coordinate Department activities with those of other departments and outside agencies and organizations; prepare and present staff reports and other necessary correspondence.
- Respond to the most difficult citizen service and facility use related complaints and requests.
- Supervise and participate in the development and administration of the Parks and Recreation Department budget; direct the forecast of additional funds needed for staffing, equipment, materials and supplies; monitor and approve expenditures; implement mid-year adjustments.
- Organize available resources for acquisition, maintenance, improvement and repair of parks and recreation facilities.
- Recruit, hire, train, and evaluate personnel; provide or coordinate staff training
- Direct the establishment and maintenance of files and records of departmental activities.
- Assist in the development, implementation and administration of the capital improvement program as it relates to park and recreation facilities.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES CENTER SUPERVISOR

Plans, coordinates, implements and supervises a variety of programs and community resources to support the Town's citizens and families from birth through old age.

An employee in this class plans, coordinates, teaches and supervises a variety of programs designed to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of the community. Work involves considerable planning and scheduling of activities and contact with participants and resource personnel. The employee works collaboratively with various public and

private agencies including schools, businesses, churches, civic organizations, etc. to identify and link resources and sources of support for community members. Programs include nutrition, transportation, education, parenting classes, health and immunizations, information and referral, mental health, employment and related services. Work is performed in accordance with departmental rules and policies and requires judgmental discretion in the application and interpretation of programs and services. Employee works in both inside and outside environments. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Parks and Recreation Director and is evaluated in terms of program effectiveness and through observation and discussions surrounding public acceptance.

Schedules and coordinates the delivery of services to town citizens and including transportation for the elderly or disabled to doctor appointments, pharmacies, grocery shopping, etc.; provision of nutritious lunches for senior citizens and disabled; provision of GED training; parenting classes; Health Department mobile units for immunizations and preventative health screening; pre-school curricula and after school help with homework and activities programming; mental health programming including working with foster parents and juvenile behavioral issues; on-site employment search assistance; seasonal assistance on issues such as dealing with grief during holidays, etc.; and other related programming. Operates the Resource Center including staffing, supplies and public service. Submits monthly reports detailing all activities. Works with program coordinators to coordinate activities and perform needs assessment. Attends a wide variety of meetings to coordinate programs, represent the Town office, participate in personal and professional development, etc. Provides information and referrals to appropriate county resources. Implements case management system for clients and citizens. Markets the programs of the center. Conducts on-going evaluation of center programs. Develops, submits and administers annual budget.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Plans, coordinates, supervises, and implements a variety of athletic activities for the Town.

Distinguishing Features of the Class

An employee in this class plans, coordinates, instructs and supervises a variety of facilities and programs activities for the citizens of the community. Work involves considerable planning and scheduling of activities, camps and programs. The employee has considerable contact with participants. The employee modifies existing programs in concert with the requested needs of the community; recruits part-time and volunteers staff, officials and coaches as well as participants; publicizes program activities; coordinates activities with grounds and center staff; and supervises the successful implementation of such programs. Employee is also responsible for ordering equipment and needed supplies and maintaining the safety of assigned grounds, buildings and other facilities. All work is performed in accordance with departmental rules and policies and requires judgmental discretion in the application and interpretation of programs, game rules, and procedures. Employee is subject to hazards in parks and recreation including work in both inside and outside environments and in extreme temperatures and noises.

RECREATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Plans, coordinates, supervises and implements a variety of activities for the Town.

Distinguishing Features of the Class

An employee in this class plans, coordinates, instructs and supervises a variety of recreational and leisure time activities for the citizens of the community. Work involves considerable planning and scheduling of activities, classes, programs, staff and considerable contact with participants. The employee modifies existing programs in concert with the requested needs of the community; recruits part-time and volunteers staff, as well as participants; publicizes program activities; coordinates activities with grounds and center staff; and supervises the successful implementation of such programs. Employee is also responsible for ordering equipment and supplies and maintaining the safety of buildings and other facilities. All work is performed in accordance with departmental rules and policies and requires judgmental discretion in the application and interpretation of programs, rules, and procedures. Employee is subject to hazards in parks and recreation including work in both inside and outside environments and in extreme temperatures and noises.

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR (ATHLETICS)

Plans, coordinates, supervises and implements a variety of athletic activities for the Town.

other facilities. All work is performed in accordance with departmental rules and policies and requires judgmental discretion in the application and interpretation of programs, game rules, and procedures. Employee is subject to hazards in parks and recreation including work in both inside and outside environments and in extreme temperatures and noises.

Plans, organizes and promotes athletic activities, leagues, tournaments for various age groups including such programs as softball, soccer, golf, tennis, volleyball, inline hockey, football, fishing, skateboarding, basketball, camps, etc., arranges schedules, secures facilities, and personnel to staff such activities.

Directly supervise, recruit, hires, trains, assigns, PT, contract staff and volunteers; evaluates and assures that department standards are being met..

Prepares game rules; recruits and trains coaches and officials; schedules fields and facilities; acquires equipment and supplies; resolves conflict.

Promotes programs and events and solicits donations and sponsorships; contacts mediate and makes personal appearances before civic and business groups; prepares press releases, flyers, brochures for promotions; activities; keeps outside informational sources current. Conducts registration for various athletic activities and events. Monitors and assures clean, safe, and neat appearance of facilities and fields; gives directions to staff for preparation of facilities and fields for activities; assists in preparation of facilities and fields.

Responsible for preparing and administering financial activity and generating reports, disbursements, and budget requests relating to activities supervised; and maintains inventory of equipment and supplies needs; assists in departmental budget preparation and execution of activities and facilities. Coordinates departmental efforts, special events, grants, competitions, and tournaments with local, state and national organizations. Develops cooperative partnerships with area schools, business leaders and community organizations for the enhancement and support of all athletic programming. Acts as a liaison with other athletic organizations, clubs and special interest groups. Perform general accounting duties: deposit monies into proper account, keep accurate and detailed records of the account, and develop reports as requested.

Receives, reviews, prepares and/or submits various records and reports including program evaluations, certificates of insurance, budgets, score sheets, rosters, attendance records, field specifications, schedules, league standings, tournament draw sheets, press releases, proposals, purchase orders, invoices, work orders, memos, correspondence, etc.

RECREATION CENTER MANAGER

General Statement of Duties

Manages day to day operations of the Recreation Center. Supervises Recreation Center Assistants and provides clerical or support duties for the Town.

Employees in this class are responsible for scheduling of center support staff, assigning tasks and monitoring the building operations and maintenance. Responsibilities include customer service, overseeing scheduling of the buildings and coordinating with the Program Staff and the Town to accommodate program activities and municipal meetings. Other responsibilities include assisting in event publicity, which is achieved through TV production and printed material, including monthly newsletters as well as the Recreation Website. Sets up computer files for the purpose of tracking numbers relating to attendance and maintenance, monitoring and compiling along with developing files for generating id cards and other databases, as needed. Overall responsibility for the Center office. Work is performed under the Parks and Recreation Director and is evaluated through observation, conferences and the quality and effectiveness of work completed.

- Inspects the facility for cleanliness and safety. Checks the schedule daily and verifies accuracy.
- Gives information on all aspects of Parks and Recreation by phone or by public contact, schedules the facility and takes in money.
- Deposits money and keeps record of deposits, along with monitoring receipt book and making sure money is credited correctly to program.
- Processes purchase requests or other forms and coordinates purchases with Director and Accounts Payable, along with requesting services and maintenance.
- Assists with getting information to the public through printed material and the Internet.
- Mail pickup, multiple copying, deposit and business that has to be coordinated with Town Hall personnel.
- Oversees maintenance of office files and records, including newspaper archive.
- Oversee and monitor bulletin boards information and brochure racks.

- Develop any new forms or printed material, as needed.
- Providing technical support and backup for departmental computer workstations and creating new files and systems for data management.

RECREATION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Oversees the day-to-day operations of the Town's Skate Park facility, coordinates the scheduling and use of all parks and athletic facilities. Assists in all other aspects of the Parks and Recreation Department's operation.

Employee is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Town's skate park facility, including the recruitment of part-time, seasonal staff:; the general maintenance and year round upkeep of facility; coordination and implementation of special activities, competitions, and events; supervision and recruitment of the skate team; oversees memberships and renewals; recommends and oversees budget implementation. Employee is also responsible for scheduling and overseeing the use of all athletic facilities, including Smith Park, Middleton extension fields, and all other facilities that come on line in the future. All work is performed in accordance with departmental rules and policies and requires judgmental discretion in the application and interpretation of programs, game rules, and procedures.

RECREATION CENTER ASSISTANT

Performs functions relating to daily overall operation of the Recreation Center, including general maintenance, customer service, clerical, emergency management and program support.

Distinguishing Features of the Class

Employees in this class are responsible for coordinating and setting up equipment and meeting rooms, providing program support and assuring the cleanliness of the center. Responsibilities include opening and closing of the center, as necessary, handling public inquiries, scheduling the facility, taking in money, maintaining records and databases on the PC. Work is also subject to the OSHA requirements on blood borne pathogens. Work is performed under the supervision of the Recreation Center Office Manager and is evaluated by review of records and reports, in conferences, and by an appraisal of the general effectiveness of recreation facilities and building maintenance.

Essential Duties and Tasks

Opens and closes the Center, as necessary, depending on work hours; assures the facilities and surrounding grounds are clean.

Sets up rooms and equipment for scheduled programs and activities; monitors use of weight room, fitness room, game room and use of outside facilities. May occasionally drive van for errands or scheduled activities.

Assists in the Center office, gives information on all aspects of Parks & Recreation; schedules all Parks & Recreation facilities; accepts fees and monies for T-shirts, videos, etc. for the Town. Checks equipment and games in and out and maintains and organizes inventory of program equipment and maintenance supplies.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Performs specific job responsibilities as related to the Community Resource Center operations. Assists the Community Resource Center Manager and the After School Coordinator by implementation of weekly programs and also scheduling participants.

An employee in this class performs specific duties related to the operation of the Community Resource Center (CRC), including assisting the Community Resource Center Manager with daily operations of the center such as opening and closing. Assists in the weekly planning of activities for a variety of programs, schedules participants, ensures the safety and welfare of the participants, assists in keeping the CRC and van clean and maintained, and exhibits a professional attitude and appearance. Work requires answering the phone in a professional manner and dealing with customers as well as town employees. Performs other duties as assigned necessary for the successful operation of the CRC. Work is subject to OSHA requirements including blood borne pathogens. Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Recreation Director or her/his designee and is evaluated by review of records and reports, in conferences, and by an appraisal of the general effectiveness of the recreation facilities.

- Assists the Community Resource Center Manager
- Assists the After School Coordinator

- Assists with program planning
- Schedules participants
- Implements a variety of creative recreational activities
- Program assistant – special events, etc…

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER- After School Coordinator

Performs specific job responsibilities as related to the Community Resource Center operations. To assist the Community Resource Center's Manager in implementing and coordinating activities and programs for the after school children and their families.

An employee in this class performs specific duties related to the operation of the Community Resource Center (CRC), including assisting the Community Resource Center Manager with daily operations of coordinating the After School Program. Assists in the weekly planning of activities for the After School program, schedules participants, ensures the safety and welfare of the participants, assists in keeping the CRC and van clean and maintained, and exhibits a professional attitude and appearance. Work requires answering the phone in a professional manner and dealing with customers as well as town employees. Performs other duties as assigned necessary for the successful operation of the CRC.

NATURE CENTER ASSISTANT

Observe the Nature Center facility ensuring the safety of all individuals utilizing the Oak Island Nature Center. Enforce the centers rules. Assists in implementing the center programs, trips, clinics, and camps.

Nature Center Assistants will serve as the on-site supervisor at the Nature Center facility. It is the primary responsibility of the Nature Center Assistant to provide leadership, supervision, enforce rules, and implement safe recreation practices in the center and in the adjacent areas. Nature Center Assistants also aid, as directed by the Special Program and Facilities Supervisor, in the cleaning and maintenance of the facility, and may be assigned other similar or related duties.

OCEAN EDUCATION CENTER ASSISTANT

Observe the Ocean Ed Center facility ensuring the safety of all individuals utilizing the Oak Island Ocean Education Center facility. Enforce the centers rules. Assists in implementing the center programs, trips, and camps.

Ocean Education Center Assistants will serve as the on-site supervisor at the Ocean Education Center. It is the primary responsibility of the Ocean Education Center Assistant to provide leadership, supervision, enforce rules, and implement safe recreation practices in the center. Ocean Education Center Assistants also aid, as directed by the Special Programs and Facilities Supervisor, in the cleaning and maintenance of the facility, and may be assigned other similar or related duties.

personnel decisions.

TEEN CENTER ASSISTANT

Observe the Teen Center facility ensuring the safety of all individuals utilizing the Oak Island Teen Center facility. Enforces the Teen Centers rules. Assists in implementing Teen Center programs, activities, and camps.

Teen Center Assistants assists the Special Programs and Facilities Supervisor in the on-site supervision of the Oak Island Teen Center facility. It is the primary responsibility of the Teen Center Assistant to provide leadership ,supervision, enforce rules, and implement safe recreation practices at the teen center and in the adjacent areas. Teen Center Assistant also aid, as directed by the SPFS, in the cleaning and maintenance of the facility, and may be assigned other similar or related duties.

SKATE PARK ATTENDANT

Observe the skate park facility ensuring the safety of all individuals utilizing the Oak Island Skate Park facility. Enforces park rules. Assists in implementing skate park programs, competitions, clinics, and camps.

Skate Park Attendants will serve as the on-site supervisor at the Oak Island outdoor skate park. It is the primary responsibility of the Skate Park Attendant to provide leadership ,supervision, enforce rules, and implement safe recreation practices on the skate park equipment and in the adjacent areas. Skate Park Attendants also aid, as directed by the Recreation Program Assistant, in the cleaning and maintenance of the facility, contest, clinics, camps, and may be assigned other similar or related duties.

AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR

Applicants should be trained and capable of working with the senior population. Candidates should demonstrate the ability to plan and implement aerobics classes on a daily basis and ensure the safety and welfare of the class participants at all times. Must be reliable and punctual for all classes. Qualified candidates should be self-motivated, creative, and energetic. Position reports to the Recreation Program Supervisor.

WATER AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR

Applicants should be trained and capable of working with a wide range of participants. Candidates should demonstrate the ability to plan and implement classes and ensure the safety and welfare of the participants at all times. Must be reliable and punctual for all classes. Individuals should be self-motivated, creative, and energetic. Position reports to the Recreation Program Supervisor.

SUMMER DAY CAMP POSITION

Applicants should be available to work with youth in a summer enrichment environment. Candidates should demonstrate the ability to plan, organize, and implement a variety of creative recreational programs and ensure the safety and welfare of the campers at all times. Must assist in pre-program planning and be reliable and punctual for all events and activities. Qualified candidates should be self-motivated, creative, and energetic and should possess a degree in Recreation, Physical Education, Early Childhood Education, or related field. College seniors pursuing degrees in the above stated fields may also apply. The Youth Counselor position reports to the Recreation Program Supervisor. The Teen Counselor position reports to the Special Programs/Facility Coordinator.

GOLF SHOP ATTENDANT

Performs a variety of duties related to the day to day operations of South Harbour Golf Links.

This employee works under the supervision of the Athletics Supervisor and PR Director and is responsible for greeting patrons of the golf course and club house in a courteous manner, assisting them by receiving fees, providing rental carts, selling concessions and completing daily logs as necessary. Golf Shop Attendants are responsible for monitoring the activities of the golf course; enforcing rules and regulations as directed by supervisory personnel; accepting tee times; performing general custodial and minor maintenance in and around the club house and cart storage; and any other duties as assigned. Duties also include providing answers and assistance to patrons by directing comments to the appropriate personnel. Employees of this class work in conjunction with other golf course employees and are responsible for opening and closing the pro shop and golf course operation. This position requires the individual to have a flexible work schedule to include weekends and holidays. This employee's hours vary, depending on events and need.

experience in the golf industry/profession

Special Note: This generic class description gives an overview of the job class, its essential job functions, and recommended job requirements. However for each individual position assigned to this class, there is available a complete job questionnaire with a physical abilities checklist, which can give, further details about that one specific position. Those documents should be reviewed before initiating a selection process. They can provide additional detailed information on which to base various personnel actions and can assist management in making legal and defensible personnel decisions.

SUMMER DAY CAMP ASSISTANT

Assists the day camp counselor in planning, scheduling, and implementing day camp programs. Responsible for supervision of camp participants at all times. Provides set-up and clean-up for each camp on a daily basis. Interaction with camp participants during activities is expected. Completes time sheet on a daily basis.

Additional Requirements

Must have worked as a summer day camp assistant with the department before or must have prior experience supervising youth in an organizational setting (i.e., other camp settings, church, school projects, etc.). A person will also be considered if they have been certified as a babysitter through the American Red Cross and have babysitting experience.

Appendix 11: Peer Community Comparative Data

North Carolina Financial Condition Analysis

Key: *OAK ISLAND* *Benchmark*

Benchmark peers selected:
CAROLINA BEACH, EMERALD ISLE, MOREHEAD CITY, WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

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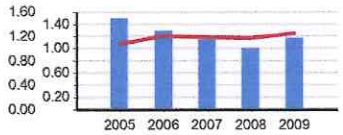
Governmental Activities

Resource Flow

Interperiod Equity

Total margin ratio

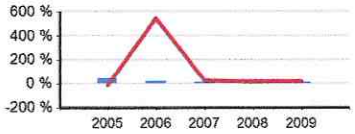


OAK ISLAND = 1.17, Benchmark = 1.26

Interperiod equity measures whether or not a local government lived within its financial means. The total margin ratio - total financial resources divided by total financial obligations - is used to analyze this dimension of resource flow.

Financial Performance

Percent change in net assets

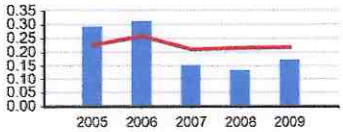


OAK ISLAND = 9.05 %, Benchmark = 17.17 %

Financial performance shows how much a government's financial position improved or deteriorated as a result of resource flow. The percent change in net assets is calculated as the change in net assets divided by net assets, beginning.

Self-Sufficiency

Charge-to-expense ratio

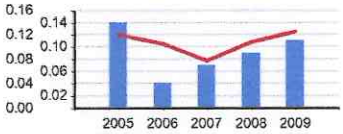


OAK ISLAND = 0.17, Benchmark = 0.22

Self-sufficiency addresses the extent to which charges for services covered total expenses. The charge-to-expense ratio is calculated as charges for services divided by total expenses.

Financing Obligation

Debt service ratio



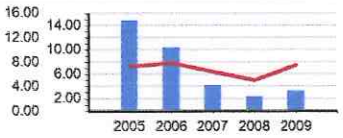
OAK ISLAND = 0.11, Benchmark = 0.13

Financing obligation looks at service flexibility by determining the amount of total expenses committed to annual debt service. The debt service ratio is calculated as annual debt service divided by total expenses.

Resource Stock

Liquidity

Quick ratio

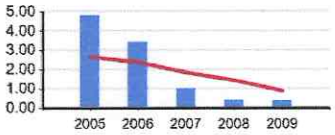


OAK ISLAND = 3.20, Benchmark = 7.45

Liquidity measures a government's ability to meet its short-term obligations. The quick ratio—cash & investments divided by current liabilities—is used to analyze this dimension of resource stock.

Solvency

Net assets ratio

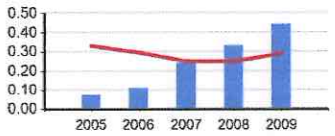


OAK ISLAND = 0.36, Benchmark = 0.88

Solvency measures a government's ability to meet long-term obligations. The net assets ratio is calculated as unrestricted net assets divided by total liabilities.

Leverage

Debt-to-assets ratio

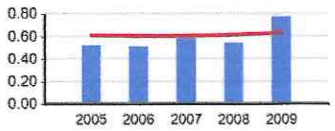


OAK ISLAND = 0.44, Benchmark = 0.29

Leverage measures the extent to which total assets are financed with long-term debt. The debt-to-assets ratio is calculated as long-term debt divided by total assets.

Capital

Capital-assets-condition ratio



OAK ISLAND = 0.77, Benchmark = 0.63

Capital is the condition of capital assets as defined by their remaining useful life. The capital assets condition ratio is calculated as accumulated depreciation divided by capital assets being depreciated. This result is then subtracted from one.

[Selected Unit]

OAK ISLAND			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Interperiod Equity	Margin Ratio		1.50	1.29	1.14	1.00	1.17
		Total Resource Inflow	11,730,788	12,313,910	12,192,136	10,227,262	12,612,646
		Total Resource Outflow	7,815,682	9,532,491	10,724,179	10,247,251	10,767,950
Financial Performance	Percent Change in Net Assets		36.93	19.16	7.76	(0.10)	9.05
		Change in Net Assets	3,915,106	2,781,419	1,467,957	(19,989)	1,844,696
		Net Assets, Beginning	10,602,129	14,517,235	18,926,322	20,394,279	20,374,290
Self-Sufficiency	Charge-to-Expense Ratio		0.29	0.31	0.15	0.13	0.17
		Charges for Services	2,257,518	2,914,586	1,580,113	1,338,281	1,798,710
		Total Expenses	7,815,682	9,532,491	10,724,179	10,247,251	10,767,950
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.14	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.11
		Debt Service	1,213,652	396,164	786,514	1,013,085	1,263,121
		Total Expenses plus Principal	8,971,962	9,876,666	11,232,475	11,159,561	11,682,190
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		14.83	10.33	4.11	2.22	3.20
		Cash & Investments	6,940,933	8,690,518	7,995,066	7,860,469	9,054,397
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	468,048	841,616	1,944,064	3,544,005	2,831,746
Solvency	Net Assets Ratio		4.79	3.41	0.98	0.39	0.36
		Unrestricted Net Assets	7,834,744	9,751,755	8,060,267	5,787,309	7,477,697
		Total Liabilities	1,637,177	2,859,076	8,211,875	14,656,362	20,621,728
Leverage	Debt-to-Assets Ratio		0.07	0.11	0.24	0.33	0.44
		Long-Term Debt	1,194,403	2,259,976	6,902,680	11,711,370	19,015,345
		Total Assets	16,154,412	20,157,730	28,606,154	35,030,652	42,840,714
Capital	Capital-Assets-Condition Ratio		0.52	0.51	0.58	0.54	0.77
		Accumulated Depreciation	3,609,735	4,105,693	4,335,785	4,869,355	5,318,510
		Capital Assets being Depreciated	7,455,402	8,459,981	10,218,276	10,516,349	23,126,298

[Benchmark Peer]

CAROLINA BEACH			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Interperiod Equity	Margin Ratio		1.06	1.08	0.98	1.01	1.05
		Total Resource Inflow	6,258,298	7,429,901	7,085,246	7,997,298	8,127,507
		Total Resource Outflow	5,930,595	6,901,131	7,208,699	7,906,224	7,763,943
Financial Performance	Percent Change in Net Assets		3.32	5.19	(1.15)	0.86	3.32
		Change in Net Assets	327,703	528,770	(123,453)	91,074	363,564
		Net Assets, Beginning	9,870,138	10,197,841	10,726,611	10,603,158	10,944,232
Self-Sufficiency	Charge-to-Expense Ratio		0.24	0.23	0.20	0.17	0.17
		Charges for Services	1,421,950	1,611,595	1,428,809	1,344,098	1,301,045
		Total Expenses	5,930,595	6,901,131	7,208,699	7,906,224	7,763,943
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.09	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08
		Debt Service	559,765	411,196	418,449	706,169	693,710
		Total Expenses plus Principal	6,214,630	7,253,329	7,522,532	8,432,280	8,297,321
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		6.27	8.38	8.09	5.02	3.62
		Cash & Investments	3,347,982	4,130,422	3,827,713	4,024,304	4,788,203
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	533,810	493,161	473,308	801,127	1,323,131
Solvency	Net Assets Ratio		0.91	1.03	0.96	0.77	0.67
		Unrestricted Net Assets	3,237,518	3,399,971	2,989,793	3,769,196	3,762,077
		Total Liabilities	3,551,724	3,293,516	3,110,324	4,883,508	5,578,543
Leverage	Debt-to-Assets Ratio		0.24	0.21	0.20	0.27	0.27
		Long-Term Debt	3,243,642	2,914,728	2,728,556	4,327,500	4,484,496
		Total Assets	13,749,565	14,020,127	13,713,482	15,827,740	16,886,339
Capital	Capital-Assets-Condition Ratio		0.76	0.71	0.66	0.68	0.65
		Accumulated Depreciation	2,608,169	3,256,899	3,925,754	4,610,995	5,097,303
		Capital Assets being Depreciated	10,946,376	11,090,837	11,664,907	14,229,721	14,692,535

[Benchmark Peer]

EMERALD ISLE			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Interperiod Equity	Margin Ratio		0.81	1.43	1.12	1.32	1.42
		Total Resource Inflow	12,755,874	9,835,568	16,056,673	9,679,843	9,809,254
		Total Resource Outflow	15,671,394	6,890,242	14,288,150	7,315,756	6,925,238
Financial Performance	Percent Change in Net Assets		(95.50)	2,143.05	57.37	48.73	40.17
		Change in Net Assets	(2,915,520)	2,945,326	1,768,523	2,364,087	2,884,016
		Net Assets, Beginning	3,052,956	137,436	3,082,762	4,851,285	7,178,675
Self-Sufficiency	Charge-to-Expense Ratio		0.09	0.21	0.11	0.20	0.21
		Charges for Services	1,432,622	1,422,176	1,536,110	1,472,985	1,462,753
		Total Expenses	15,671,394	6,890,242	14,288,150	7,315,756	6,925,238
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.34	0.30	0.15	0.26	0.32
		Debt Service	7,839,966	2,809,295	2,491,375	2,430,563	3,069,452
		Total Expenses plus Principal	23,200,259	9,265,242	16,413,150	9,440,756	9,684,576
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		2.19	1.92	1.23	2.21	1.68
		Cash & Investments	5,235,379	4,697,656	3,378,401	5,678,798	4,432,177
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	2,394,204	2,449,690	2,747,912	2,566,188	2,635,824
Solvency	Net Assets Ratio		(0.59)	(0.57)	(0.49)	(0.23)	0.53
		Unrestricted Net Assets	(9,066,174)	(7,447,999)	(5,505,092)	(2,409,680)	4,639,907
		Total Liabilities	15,307,165	13,057,845	11,223,324	10,584,293	8,729,594
Leverage	Debt-to-Assets Ratio		0.96	0.78	0.65	0.57	0.44
		Long-Term Debt	14,900,000	12,525,000	10,400,000	10,160,000	8,285,564
		Total Assets	15,444,601	16,140,607	16,074,609	17,799,665	18,792,285
Capital	Capital-Assets-Condition Ratio		0.54	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.65
		Accumulated Depreciation	2,553,287	2,681,491	2,796,545	3,010,819	3,216,124
		Capital Assets being Depreciated	5,570,910	6,327,270	6,865,347	6,995,028	9,259,173

[Benchmark Peer]

MOREHEAD CITY			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Interperiod Equity	Margin Ratio		1.27	1.19	1.60	1.36	1.52
		Total Resource Inflow	8,933,157	8,921,711	11,932,967	12,422,350	13,922,581
		Total Resource Outflow	7,006,886	7,474,143	7,450,048	9,127,881	9,157,251
Financial Performance	Percent Change in Net Assets		20.29	12.68	34.84	18.99	23.08
		Change in Net Assets	1,926,271	1,447,568	4,482,919	3,294,469	4,765,330
		Net Assets, Beginning	9,491,938	11,418,209	12,865,777	17,348,696	20,643,165
Self-Sufficiency	Charge-to-Expense Ratio		0.17	0.15	0.15	0.10	0.11
		Charges for Services	1,190,528	1,113,301	1,084,401	913,169	1,024,406
		Total Expenses	7,006,886	7,474,143	7,450,048	9,127,881	9,157,251
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.05	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.06
		Debt Service	371,548	469,269	680,680	552,661	608,650
		Total Expenses plus Principal	7,296,488	7,862,746	7,999,750	9,588,153	9,693,660
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		3.49	4.43	4.00	3.99	4.29
		Cash & Investments	2,853,523	6,188,669	6,151,876	5,661,275	5,653,701
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	818,529	1,395,851	1,537,467	1,419,448	1,317,653
Solvency	Net Assets Ratio		1.64	1.26	1.49	1.62	1.56
		Unrestricted Net Assets	4,388,933	5,429,501	5,995,760	6,110,999	5,297,556
		Total Liabilities	2,679,739	4,294,723	4,021,153	3,771,696	3,399,705
Leverage	Debt-to-Assets Ratio		0.12	0.17	0.11	0.09	0.06
		Long-Term Debt	1,665,131	2,896,107	2,346,405	2,216,133	1,679,724
		Total Assets	14,097,948	17,160,500	21,369,849	24,414,861	28,808,200
Capital	Capital-Assets-Condition Ratio		0.71	0.68	0.73	0.76	0.78
		Accumulated Depreciation	2,825,264	3,207,853	3,559,261	3,798,265	4,312,502
		Capital Assets being Depreciated	9,580,020	9,958,540	13,022,839	15,855,774	19,712,406

[Benchmark Peer]

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Interperiod Equity	Margin Ratio		1.17	1.13	1.04	1.00	1.03
		Total Resource Inflow	7,417,109	7,793,203	7,559,990	7,534,663	7,911,853
		Total Resource Outflow	6,340,476	6,873,880	7,301,826	7,571,368	7,704,658
Financial Performance	Percent Change in Net Assets		14.04	10.51	2.67	(0.37)	2.10
		Change in Net Assets	1,076,633	919,323	258,164	(36,705)	207,195
		Net Assets, Beginning	7,670,121	8,746,754	9,666,077	9,924,241	9,887,536
Self-Sufficiency	Charge-to-Expense Ratio		0.40	0.44	0.38	0.39	0.38
		Charges for Services	2,537,073	3,008,938	2,789,002	2,986,312	2,950,793
		Total Expenses	6,340,476	6,873,880	7,301,826	7,571,368	7,704,658
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04
		Debt Service	0	4,988	84,757	197,193	352,878
		Total Expenses plus Principal	6,340,476	6,873,880	7,374,053	7,747,799	8,001,265
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		16.82	16.40	12.07	8.65	20.20
		Cash & Investments	4,197,959	4,964,482	5,363,584	5,254,847	11,092,567
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	249,632	302,768	444,451	607,705	549,030
Solvency	Net Assets Ratio		8.66	7.76	5.40	3.58	0.74
		Unrestricted Net Assets	3,783,344	4,865,129	5,165,098	5,009,664	5,384,557
		Total Liabilities	436,920	626,628	956,214	1,398,275	7,290,756
Leverage	Debt-to-Assets Ratio		0.00	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.39
		Long-Term Debt	0	224,000	469,023	820,592	6,735,985
		Total Assets	9,183,674	10,292,705	10,880,455	11,285,811	17,385,487
Capital	Capital-Assets-Condition Ratio		0.43	0.44	0.43	0.45	0.44
		Accumulated Depreciation	2,864,839	3,098,956	3,364,612	3,654,439	3,658,695
		Capital Assets being Depreciated	5,026,174	5,539,950	5,949,373	6,615,197	6,577,236

North Carolina Financial Condition Analysis

Key: *OAK ISLAND* *Benchmark*

Benchmark peers selected:

CAROLINA BEACH, EMERALD ISLE, MOREHEAD CITY, WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

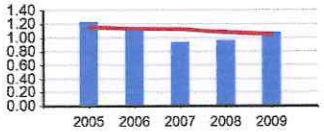
Report Generation: 2/21/2011 2:18:33 PM

General Fund

Resource Flow

Service Obligation

Operations ratio

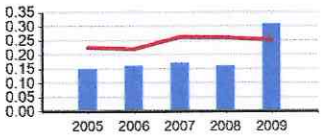


OAK ISLAND = 1.08, Benchmark = 1.05

Service obligation measures whether or not a government's annual revenues were sufficient to pay for annual operations. The operations ratio is calculated as total revenues divided by total expenditures (plus transfers to debt service fund).

Dependency

Intergovernmental ratio

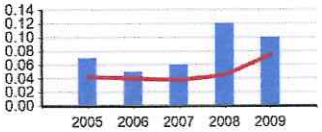


OAK ISLAND = 0.31, Benchmark = 0.25

Dependency measures the extent to which a government relies on other governments for resources. The intergovernmental ratio is calculated as total intergovernmental revenue divided by total revenue.

Financing Obligation

Debt service ratio



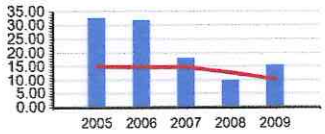
OAK ISLAND = 0.10, Benchmark = 0.08

Financing obligation addresses service flexibility or the amount of expenditures committed to annual debt service. The debt service ratio is calculated as debt service divided by total expenditures (plus transfers to debt service fund).

Resource Stock

Liquidity

Quick ratio

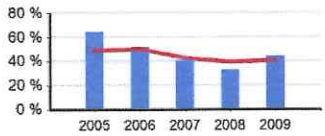


OAK ISLAND = 15.53, Benchmark = 10.31

Liquidity measures a government's ability to meet its short-term obligations. The quick ratio is calculated as cash & investments divided by current liabilities.

Solvency

Fund balance available as percentage of expenditures

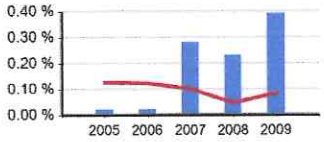


OAK ISLAND = 43.93 %, Benchmark = 40.55 %

Solvency measures a government's ability to meet long-term obligations. Fund balance as a percentage of expenditures is calculated as available fund balance divided by expenditures plus transfers out.

Leverage

Debt as percentage of assessed value



OAK ISLAND = 0.39 %, Benchmark = 0.08 %

Leverage measures the extent to which a government relies on tax-supported debt. The ratio of debt as a percentage of assessed value is calculated as tax-supported, long-term debt divided by assessed value.

[Selected Unit]

OAK ISLAND			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Service Obligation	Operations Ratio		1.23	1.11	0.94	0.96	1.08
		Total Revenues	8,971,303	9,436,702	9,850,357	9,850,801	12,062,442
		Total Expenditures	7,269,478	8,516,464	10,438,786	10,262,035	11,140,635
Dependency	Intergovernmental Ratio		0.15	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.31
		Total Intergovernmental Revenue	1,356,836	1,511,142	1,714,823	1,599,665	3,737,400
		Total Revenue	8,971,303	9,436,702	9,850,357	9,850,801	12,062,442
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.07	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.10
		Debt Service	505,824	391,821	592,594	1,187,684	1,156,188
		Total Expenditures	7,269,478	8,516,464	10,438,786	10,262,035	11,140,635
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		32.60	31.71	18.04	9.93	15.53
		Cash & Investments	4,853,103	4,963,696	4,605,981	3,781,784	5,267,603
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	148,887	156,549	255,316	381,003	339,161
Solvency	Fund Balance Available as a Percentage of Expenditures	Dept. of State Treasurer Calculation	64.25	51.74	40.35	32.44	43.93
Leverage	Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Value		0.02	0.02	0.28	0.23	0.39
		Tax-Supported, Long-Term Debt	288,898	231,118	4,173,339	9,569,892	16,708,661
		Assessed Value	1,359,556,372	1,438,801,906	1,495,372,965	4,203,291,615	4,242,797,313

[Benchmark Peer]

CAROLINA BEACH			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Service Obligation	Operations Ratio		0.97	1.14	0.96	1.02	1.00
		Total Revenues	6,254,163	7,426,297	6,989,434	7,796,586	7,910,319
		Total Expenditures	6,479,106	6,505,847	7,269,603	7,679,025	7,891,847
Dependency	Intergovernmental Ratio		0.24	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.27
		Total Intergovernmental Revenue	1,518,712	1,953,849	1,827,432	2,003,203	2,149,798
		Total Revenue	6,254,163	7,426,297	6,989,434	7,796,586	7,910,319
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.09	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.09
		Debt Service	559,766	411,196	418,449	706,269	693,710
		Total Expenditures	6,479,106	6,505,847	7,269,603	7,679,025	7,891,847
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		17.66	18.66	19.63	17.12	6.18
		Cash & Investments	3,347,982	4,130,422	3,872,713	3,977,314	4,788,203
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	189,626	221,342	197,253	232,259	775,160
Solvency	Fund Balance Available as a Percentage of Expenditures	Dept. of State Treasurer Calculation	48.67	58.46	50.56	48.67	50.85
Leverage	Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Value		0.34	0.30	0.25	0.09	0.08
		Tax-Supported, Long-Term Debt	2,620,917	2,442,476	2,264,034	2,085,593	1,907,151
		Assessed Value	775,731,628	827,699,993	896,905,342	2,438,185,038	2,465,340,066

[Benchmark Peer]

EMERALD ISLE			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Service Obligation	Operations Ratio		1.16	1.06	1.09	1.17	0.98
		Total Revenues	6,195,079	6,409,988	6,743,857	7,309,193	6,941,985
		Total Expenditures	5,328,065	6,054,700	6,199,670	6,261,985	7,082,310
Dependency	Intergovernmental Ratio		0.36	0.38	0.39	0.34	0.33
		Total Intergovernmental Revenue	2,236,846	2,421,074	2,624,060	2,482,359	2,325,281
		Total Revenue	6,195,079	6,409,988	6,743,857	7,309,193	6,941,985
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.03	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.10
		Debt Service	156,626	257,107	0	0	699,702
		Total Expenditures	5,328,065	6,054,700	6,199,670	6,261,985	7,082,310
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		11.82	7.58	10.17	10.14	8.96
		Cash & Investments	1,848,111	1,343,384	1,304,172	1,639,045	1,528,044
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	156,408	177,163	128,237	161,587	170,551
Solvency	Fund Balance Available as a Percentage of Expenditures	Dept. of State Treasurer Calculation	27.66	17.12	17.12	20.39	18.94
Leverage	Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Value		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
		Tax-Supported, Long-Term Debt	0	0	0	1,085,000	1,395,000
		Assessed Value	1,431,374,216	1,470,709,081	1,524,967,449	4,246,569,437	4,311,870,254

[Benchmark Peer]

MOREHEAD CITY			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Service Obligation	Operations Ratio		1.32	1.28	1.44	1.16	1.24
		Total Revenues	7,565,638	7,912,605	10,535,787	9,146,907	9,006,430
		Total Expenditures	5,752,006	6,163,637	7,325,261	7,890,322	7,263,643
Dependency	Intergovernmental Ratio		0.17	0.14	0.33	0.37	0.36
		Total Intergovernmental Revenue	1,273,028	1,115,599	3,480,065	3,397,848	3,232,341
		Total Revenue	7,565,638	7,912,605	10,535,787	9,146,907	9,006,430
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.05	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.07
		Debt Service	311,077	396,059	606,205	497,622	493,599
		Total Expenditures	5,752,006	6,163,637	7,325,261	7,890,322	7,263,643
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		13.80	11.73	8.88	7.62	7.09
		Cash & Investments	4,258,453	4,895,109	4,817,246	3,763,026	4,114,269
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	308,642	417,298	542,296	493,970	580,659
Solvency	Fund Balance Available as a Percentage of Expenditures	Dept. of State Treasurer Calculation	56.95	60.85	40.79	31.31	38.48
Leverage	Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Value		0.16	0.19	0.15	0.06	0.04
		Tax-Supported, Long-Term Debt	1,560,450	2,010,877	1,614,259	1,314,193	1,007,777
		Assessed Value	975,406,893	1,055,726,548	1,103,800,026	2,194,677,090	2,331,477,776

[Benchmark Peer]

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dimension	Indicator	Elements					
Service Obligation	Operations Ratio		1.16	1.05	1.01	0.97	0.99
		Total Revenues	7,129,960	7,516,402	7,271,014	7,354,939	7,722,822
		Total Expenditures	6,141,228	7,155,023	7,218,523	7,600,581	7,769,712
Dependency	Intergovernmental Ratio		0.13	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.05
		Total Intergovernmental Revenue	933,070	724,500	476,633	486,987	400,959
		Total Revenue	7,129,960	7,516,402	7,271,014	7,354,939	7,722,822
Financing Obligation	Debt Service Ratio		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04
		Debt Service	0	0	80,850	193,683	322,307
		Total Expenditures	6,141,228	7,155,023	7,218,523	7,600,581	7,769,712
Liquidity	Quick Ratio		16.51	20.87	20.24	16.13	19.00
		Cash & Investments	4,061,875	4,765,916	4,945,501	4,766,566	4,619,341
		Current Liabilities (not including Deferred Revenue)	246,073	228,410	244,316	295,570	243,152
Solvency	Fund Balance Available as a Percentage of Expenditures	Dept. of State Treasurer Calculation	61.36	62.93	61.99	56.57	53.93
Leverage	Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Value		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
		Tax-Supported, Long-Term Debt	0	0	0	0	6,000,000
		Assessed Value	1,429,569,581	1,446,709,160	1,459,677,555	3,274,562,905	3,293,091,345

Appendix 12: Parks and Recreation 2011/12 Capital Improvement Requests

Project Name	Description	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Recreation Complex	Expansion/renovation of recreation center to include expanded weight and fitness facility, gymnasium, commercial kitchen, handicap accessible.		$500,000		$4.5 M	
West End Regional Access	Regional Access site at West Beach – to include restrooms and shower facilities, as well as parking. 2010 PR Master Plan references the need for a west end regional access.			$500,000		
Pro Shop Oak Island Par 3 @ South Harbour	New Pro Shop facility to include club house, restrooms and covered cart storage				$90,000	
Community Resource Center	Expansion of Community Resource Center Use of facility over 7500 patrons per year					$30,000
Playground Equipment	New playground in the Middleton Corridor				$60,000	
Tennis courts #1 #2	Resurface tennis courts #1 #2	$16,000				
Skate Park	Renovations to Skate Park replace/upgrade ramps , rails, fall zone, fencing		$35,000			
Playground equipment	Expand playground equipment at Middleton Park		$60,000			
Park at Middleton Corridor	Planning, engineering for park facility at the Middleton corridor				$150,000	
Park at Middleton	Construction of park facility at the Middleton					$600,000

Project Name	Description	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Corridor	corridor					
Ocean Education Center	Expand current facility				$30,000	
Mini bus	Replace 2003 with 15 passenger mini bus. Van currently (2011) has over 65,000 miles and averages 8000 miles/year				$35,000	
Mini bus	Replace 1996 with 15 passenger mini bus. Vans are used by department for day camps, trips and outings. This van has 9222 roll over miles and is used sparingly to transport due to age and condition.	$30,000				
Indoor facility	Planning, engineering for recreation facility at the Middleton corridor				$100K	
Long Beach Rd. Facility	Planning, engineering for recreation facility at the Long Beach Road corridor					
Gazebo at Middleton Park	Condition of gazebo is becoming a safety issue. Gazebo is utilized for events and also reserved by patrons There are few shelters in the system and they are in high demand Estimated use of facility over 500 patrons/year	$15K				$100,000

Project Name	Description	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Long Beach Rd. Facility	Construction of an indoor recreation facility along the Long Beach Rd. corridor.	$400,000				
Mini Bus	Replace 2007 15 passenger van with min bus. Van averages 7500 miles per year		$35,000			
Tennis Complex	Construction of tennis complex on mainland					$350,000
Long Beach Rd. Park	Construction of a park facility with water access along the Long Beach Road Corridor.				$600,000	
Long Beach Rd. Park	Planning, engineering for park facility with water access along the Long Beach Road Corridor.			$150,000		